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# The KINGBIRD

PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE ORNITHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Volume 72 No. 2      June 2022      pp. 109-216

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## CONTENTS

Report of the New York State Avian Records Committee for 2018 . . . . .	110
January Waterfowl Count 2022 Bill Ostrander . . . . .	126
1948 Long Island Waterfowl Survey Results Christopher K. McKeever . . . . .	130
Notes and Observations Crossbillng in Northern New York, 28-30 January 2022: a banner season for crossbills Matthew A. Young and Ryan F. Mandelbaum . . . . .	134
An apparent European Herring Gull ( <i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i> ) at Old Field Point, Suffolk County, Long Island Patrice Domeischel and Shaibal S. Mitra . . . . .	136
Highlights of the Season, Winter 2021-22 Michael F. Cooper . . . . .	139
Regional Reports, Winter 2021-22 . . . . .	143
Photo Gallery Winter 2021-22 . . . . .	161
Standard Regional Report Abbreviations, Reporting Deadlines, and Map of Reporting Regions . . . . .	215

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109

## **REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE AVIAN RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 2018**

The New York State Avian Records Committee (hereafter “NYSARC” or the “Committee”) evaluated 80 submissions involving 59 occurrences of New York State review species from 2018 and an additional one from 1984. Reports were received from across the state, with 25 of the 62 counties and the pelagic zone represented. The number of reports accompanied by photographs remains high and naturally benefits the value of the archive. The Committee wishes to remind readers that reports submitted to listservs, local bird clubs, rare bird alerts (RBAs) and even the *Kingbird* Regional Editors are not necessarily passed along to NYSARC. Doing so, therefore, remains the responsibility of the observer(s). The best way to ensure a rarity is reviewed by NYSARC is to submit a formal report to the Committee, which would include written details and possibly photographs or audio recordings. Submitting an acceptable report to eBird also works, although NYSARC review of eBird reports may lag slightly behind reviews of formal submissions. As is well-known by now, the use of the Internet and mobile phones has had a very positive impact on the timely dissemination of rare bird sightings and has made it easier for birders to locate rarities found by others. The Committee has always held that receipt of multiple independent reports provides a much fuller documentation of the sighting and can in some cases increase the likelihood of acceptance. We therefore urge ALL observers, not just the finder, to submit written reports and/or photographs. The names of the 52 contributors that submitted materials (written reports, photographs, video and audio recordings, and sketches) are listed alongside accepted reports and again at the end of this document. Where possible, the name(s) of the original finder(s) is (are) included in the narratives. Production of this Annual Report is a team effort. In addition to the contributors referenced above, some *Kingbird* Regional Editors and eBird reviewers have helped observers to prepare and submit documentation.

### **HOW TO SUBMIT REPORTS**

Advice on how to prepare and submit a report is provided on the NYSARC pages within the NYSOA web site: <http://nybirds.org/NYSARC/index.htm>. Although it may go without saying that photographs and/or audio recordings of the reported bird(s) can be vitally important to getting a record accepted by the Committee, it cannot be emphasized enough that a thorough written description of the bird(s) and the circumstances of the observation, as well as other pertinent details, can also propel a record to acceptance. Unfortunately, eBird reports are frequently very short on details and when those reports also lack hard evidence, such as photos or audio recordings, it becomes difficult for the Committee to accept them. ***This highlights an important distinction between NYSARC and eBird.*** Some eBird reports are accepted by eBird reviewers in large part because the observer

is considered experienced. While NYSARC may consider the observer's experience, we want accepted records to have archived documentation that can be reviewed by anyone in the future. As such, some reports from very experienced observers that have few or no substantial details and which were accepted by eBird reviewers, will not be accepted by NYSARC.

Also on the NYSARC pages is a list of species requested for review by NYSARC (The Review List) as well as illustrated copies of previous annual reports. The Committee is very grateful to Carena Pooth (NYSOA Web Master) for updating and continuously improving the NYSARC web site. An on-line reporting form allows observers to compose a written report and attach up to three digital image files (maximum size 7 MB per photo). Documentation (written reports, photographs, audio recordings) and any other correspondence for the Committee can also be sent via email to the NYSARC Secretary, Gary Chapin, at: nysarc44@nybirds.org. As a last resort, you can also use regular mail to get your report to: Gary Chapin, 125 Pine Springs Drive, Ticonderoga, NY 12883

## HIGHLIGHTS

For the first year since 2009, there were no new additions to the state list in 2018. The highlights included the third NYS record of Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*), only the second records of Trindade Petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*) and Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*), the fourth of Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*), and the fourth for Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*).

## COMMITTEE NEWS

The 2018 annual meeting was held via Skype on 21 Mar 2020, six months after the 2017 annual meeting. Note that the annual meeting year refers to the latest reports reviewed at that meeting. After the first round of review, 12 formal submissions were left for additional discussion and voting. Three of those were settled using email discussion, prior to the meeting, and the remaining nine were completed either during the meeting or sometime later, after obtaining additional information and expert opinions.

Several potential changes to the review list were discussed at the 2018 annual meeting. The following changes were decided upon at the meeting:

change "Greenland" Greater White-fronted Goose to upstate review only (U);  
change "Western" Greater White-fronted Goose to downstate review only (D);  
remove "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal from the review list;  
remove Summer Tanager from the review list.

Shortly after the 2018 annual meeting, the Committee decided to change Arctic Tern to upstate review only (U). This species presents significant identification problems for most birders, which was the main reason that it has been kept on the review list for downstate areas and the pelagic zone. The only area where the

Committee did not request documentation for this species was Cupsogue County Park in Suffolk County, where there has been an established pattern of occurrence for many years. However, over the past decade or so, more informed birders have documented the species occurring with some regularity on other outer beaches of Long Island as well. This enabled the Committee to remove Arctic Tern from the downstate and pelagic zone review lists.

## 2018 Reports Accepted

### **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)**

**2018-22-A** One, Calvert Vaux Park, **Kings**, 16 May (Joshua Malbin, ph J. Malbin). eBird 16 May

**2018-60-A** Two, Nissequogue River State Park, **Suffolk**, 23 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra). eBird 23-28, 30 Jun, 1-5, 7-14 Jul

Alex Wilson found the Black-bellied Whistling Duck at Calvert Vaux Park, associating with Brant, in Brooklyn. The duck was apparently viewed on just this one day and only by a few observers. Joshua Malbin documented the record for NYSARC. The two birds at Nissequogue River SP were found by Jim Lafferty and stayed for three weeks.

### **Pink-footed Goose (*Anser brachyrhynchus*)**

**2018-10-A** One, Fort Miller, **Washington**, 21 Mar (Scott L. Varney)

**2018-61-A** One, Montauk Downs Golf Course, **Suffolk**, 4 Feb (Shaibal S. Mitra). eBird 16-18 Dec 2017, 11, 13-15, 19, 21-23, 28, 29 Jan, 4, 6, 8, 10-14, 17-19, 22, 24, 27 Feb, 1, 3, 4, 11 Mar 2018

The Fort Miller Pink-footed Goose was a first record for Washington County. It was found and documented by Scott Varney, continuing a trend of increasing records in the eastern portion of the state. The Montauk goose was apparently first found on 26 Nov 2017 by Bruce Horwith and stayed through most of the winter.

### **“Black” Brant (*Branta bernicla nigricans*)**

**2018-46-A** One, Fort Tilden, **Queens**, 19 Nov (Steve Nanz, ph S. Nanz)

This Brant, of the western North American subspecies, was found and nicely photographed by Steve Nanz. Although a few “Black” Brant have been found in New York in the past, it seems that this may be the first documented juvenile. Due to the close similarity between juvenile “Dark-bellied” Brant (*B. b. bernicla*) and “Black” Brant, the Committee studied photographs of the two forms, had a lengthy discussion about this bird, and solicited input from various goose experts. The reduced contrast between the neck sock and the breast shown by the Fort Tilden bird, particularly in the center of the breast, seemed to be a consistent difference from “Dark-bellied” Brant. Several Committee members noted this distinction as did some of the outside experts who responded to NYSARC’s request for opinions. After further discussion, the record was unanimously accepted by the Committee.

### **White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*)**

**2018-47-A** One, Cupsogue Beach County Park, **Suffolk**, 30 May (Eric Zawatski, ph E. Zawatski). eBird 30 May

Eric Zawatski and Shawn Sullivan discovered this White-winged Dove at Cupsogue Beach, providing yet another briefly seen record of this southern species for the south shore of Long Island.

### **Rufous Hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)**

**2018-45-A** One, Rosendale, **Ulster**, 11 Nov (Robert P. Yunick, ph Annie Mardiney)

This hatching-year female Rufous Hummingbird was reported to be at the feeding station of Rob Johnson in Kinderhook, Columbia County, on 8-10 Nov. On 10 Nov it apparently had difficulty flying and Johnson was able to capture the bird by hand. It was brought to the facility of a licensed rehabilitator, Annie Mardiney, in Rosendale, Ulster County, where Bob Yunick was able to band the bird on 11 Nov. It was apparently doing well, flying and feeding inside of an enclosure at the time of his visit. Sadly, the bird passed away about two months later at the facility, even though it still seemed to be doing well (Annie Mardiney, pers. comm.). Unfortunately, the specimen was not preserved.

Although most of the Committee was in favor of accepting the record after the first round of review, two members wondered about the possibility that this could be a Broad-tailed Hummingbird (*Selasphorus platycercus*). After further discussion, the documentation was sent to Scott Weidensaul, Fred Bassett, and Sheri Williamson for their opinions. All three experts felt that the bird was, indeed, a Rufous Hummingbird. Williamson pointed out that there have been many examples of photographed birds in eBird that were identified as Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, which were actually Rufous, indicating that this is a difficult and widespread identification problem. In addition she pointed out that there is a broad hybrid zone between Rufous and Allen's Hummingbirds which may explain a lot of birds with intermediate or inconsistent measurements.

### **Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*)**

**2018-3-A** One, Manorville, **Suffolk**, 13-15 Jan (Paul Sweet, ph Virginia Fratti)

**2018-4-A** One, Southampton, **Suffolk**, 16 Jan (Paul Sweet, ph P. Sweet)

**2018-41-A/B** One, Prospect Park, **Kings**, 20 Oct (Tim Healy, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, ph T. Healy, Z. Schwartz-Weinstein). eBird 19-24 Oct

**2018-59-A** One, Rockville Centre, **Nassau**, 14 Jan (Paul Sweet, ph P. Sweet)

The immature Purple Gallinule at Prospect Park in Brooklyn was found by Sean Sime and seen by many over the course of six days in October. Three other Purple Gallinules were found in a short span during mid January on Long Island. The Manorville bird was reportedly seen for three days before being brought to a wildlife rehabilitator, where it soon perished. Unfortunately, the specimen was discarded by the rehabilitator. The Southampton bird was found by Pamela Chadderton and her husband but was not well and died the same day. The specimen is now American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) Skin #844181. The Rockville Centre bird was brought in to Volunteers for Wildlife on 14 Jan

and died on 16 Jan. This specimen is now AMNH Skin #844182. All three of the Long Island records were submitted by Paul Sweet. One more Purple Gallinule was reported in New York during the winter spate of sightings, a bird found on 25 Jan in Lewis County, where it was captured and taken to a rehabilitator (eBird Feb 2021). NYSARC will review that report at a later date.

### Ruff (*Calidris pugnax*)

**2018-14-A** Two, Port Byron, **Cayuga**, 12 Apr (Dominic Sherony, ph D. Sherony). eBird 10-12, 14, 16 Apr, 6 May (male); 12, 14, 15, 20 Apr (female)

**2018-52-A** One, Heckscher State Park, **Suffolk**, 22-23 May (Patricia Lindsay, ph P. Lindsay). eBird 22-24 May

In 2018, Montezuma NWR and vicinity was graced with the presence of two Ruffs, a male and a female-type. The black and chestnut male molted from transitional to spectacular full alternate plumage from 12 Apr to 6 May. The male was discovered by Gregg Dashnau and the female-type by Robert Spahn. A Ruff found in August of the same year in the same general area (eBird Feb 2021) will be reviewed by NYSARC at a later date. Pat Lindsay was birding one of her local shorebird patches, Heckscher SP, actually hoping to find a Ruff, when she came across another chestnut and black male, proving that following one's instincts can indeed pay off. This marks the fourth occurrence of this species since 2013 at the two adjacent sites of Heckscher SP and Timber Point Golf Course.

### Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)

**2018-51-A/B** One, Great River, **Suffolk**, 16-17 Apr (Patricia Lindsay, Shaibal S. Mitra, ph P. Lindsay, S. Mitra). eBird 16-17 Apr

This mega rarity was discovered by Pat Lindsay at Timber Point Golf Course toward the end of a prolonged violent northeast storm. The identification was assisted by the efforts of Brent Bomkamp and Taylor Sturm, who tracked down the bird after it had flushed and disappeared, and Shai Mitra, who correctly suspected this species from the initial soft and distant photos Pat had managed.

This adult bird coming into alternate plumage constitutes only the third state record: an adult in basic plumage collected in Orleans Co. 10 Oct 1907 was the first, originally labeled a Solitary Sandpiper, then correctly identified in 1979 at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, Berkeley, Specimen #106848 (Dziadosz 1980, Burke 1998); then a juvenile was discovered at Rye, Westchester Co. 31 Oct 1990 by long-time Committee member Tom Burke (Burke 1991). Other records from eastern North America include one each from St. John's, Newfoundland 11-14 Nov 1998 (Mactavish 1999), Delaware 5-15 May 2008 (Veit *et al.* 2008), Rhode Island 12\*-30 Oct 2012 (Ellison *et al.* 2013), and New Jersey 20-22 Sep 2020 (Davis *et al.* 2021). There are also four from Bermuda (19 Oct 1981, 20 Apr 1983; Amos 1991; 11 May 1996, 12 Nov 2011; eBird 2021) and no fewer than five from the small island of Barbados (16 Oct 1955, 15 Nov 1992, 5 Mar 1994, 25 Apr 1998, and 28 Nov 1998), at least one, and probably several of which overwintered (Buckley *et al.* 2009).

\*The date of discovery is stated incorrectly as 13 Oct in the cited report. The bird was actually found and seen by many on 12 Oct (eBird; Mitra and Lindsay, pers. comm.).

### **Short-billed Gull (*Larus canus brachyrhynchus*)**

**2018-2-A** One, Prospect Park, **Kings**, 20 Jan (Sean Sime, ph Michael Yuan, Geoffrey Jones). eBird 20 Jan

**2018-5-A** One, Floyd Bennett Field, **Kings**, 16 Mar (Sean Sime, ph S. Sime). eBird 16 Mar Sean Sime found these two adult gulls, both one-day-only sightings. His detailed description of the Prospect Park bird along with other observers' diagnostic photos, as well as his excellent report and photos of the Floyd Bennett Field bird, enabled identification as the then-subspecific race of Mew Gull, *brachyrhynchus*, now awarded full species status as Short-billed Gull by the American Ornithological Society (Chesser *et al.* 2021). Sime commented that the Floyd Bennett Field bird could possibly have been the same individual as the Prospect Park bird, but without conclusive evidence the Committee decided it was prudent to treat these as separate records.

As noted in the 2017 NYSARC report (D'Anna *et al.* 2021), records of "Mew Gull" have been increasing in recent years, quite notably within New York City. For many years, the default assumption for the species in coastal areas was the nominate European Common Gull (*L. c. canus*). However, there are now multiple documented individuals of the North American Short-billed Gull (*L. c. brachyrhynchus*). As an interesting side note, and further evidence that the Brooklyn waterfront continues to be a magnet for these rare gulls, another Short-billed Gull, determined to be a different individual, was found earlier in the same week as the Prospect Park bird at the nearby Veterans Memorial Piers (eBird 2021). This report will be reviewed by NYSARC at a later date.

### **Common Gull (*Larus canus canus*)**

**2018-13-A** One, Collins Lake, Collins Park, **Schenectady**, 15 Apr (Ted Keyel, ph T. Keyel). eBird 15 Apr

This adult Common Gull (known as Mew Gull, at the time of the sighting) was nicely photographed by the observer, Ted Keyel. His photos included the all-important shots of the spread wing but the Committee was initially somewhat uncertain of the subspecies involved, with some wondering if it could be the Russian subspecies, *heinei*, a potentially very significant record, as it has never been recorded in North America. After further discussion and an opinion from the European gull expert, Peter Adriaens, the Committee voted unanimously to accept this as the nominate, European race, which has since been split from the North American form and is now known as Common Gull.

### **Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*)**

**2018-1-A/B** One, Oswego, **Oswego**, 16 Jan (Kevin McGann, Bill Purcell, ph K. McGann, B. Purcell). eBird 16-19, 23, 25, 31 Jan, 6, 7, 16-19 Feb

David Wheeler found this adult Slaty-backed Gull on the Oswego River at Lock

6. Since the first New York record, in 1992 on the Niagara River, this Asian species has been recorded at least 16 times in the state. One cannot say that it was expected or even considered that plausible in 1992, as it was the first record in North America east of the Mississippi River (Brock 1998). Thus, this change in status for a species that does not breed in North America is truly remarkable.

### **Bridled Tern (*Onychoprion anaethetus*)**

**2018-36-A/C** One, Great Gull Island, **Suffolk**, 3-16 Aug (Sean Sime, Joseph DiCostanzo, Arie Gilbert, ph S. Sime, J. DiCostanzo, A. Gilbert). eBird 3-16 Aug

For the third consecutive summer, the Great Gull Island tern colony was favored by the visit of a Bridled Tern, presumably the same individual each year. Although the island is off limits, except to tern researchers, a number of birders made boat trips to view the bird from offshore.

### **Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*)**

**2018-32-A** One, Braddock Bay, **Monroe**, 8 Jul (Dominic Sherony, ph Joseph Wing). eBird 8 Jul

Discovered by Jim Miles and Lauri Mattle, this Least Tern entertained a few dozen birders on the one day that it was seen. Though a regular coastal breeder, Least Tern is an exceptional rarity inland in New York, with only three records reviewed and accepted by NYSARC.

### **Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*)**

**2018-26-A** One, Plumb Beach, **Kings**, 19 May (Peter Paul, ph P. Paul). eBird 19 May

**2018-28-A** One, Nickerson Beach, **Nassau**, 17 Jun (Tim Healy, ph T. Healy)

**2018-29-A/C** One, Nickerson Beach, **Nassau**, 16, 19 Jun (Joshua Malbin, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, Shaibal S. Mitra, ph J. Malbin, Z. Schwartz-Weinstein, S. Mitra)

**2018-30-A** One, Breezy Point, **Queens**, 12 Jun (Peter Paul, ph P. Paul). eBird 12, 13 Jun

**2018-55-A** One, Nickerson Beach, **Nassau**, 23 May (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)

**2018-56-A** One, Nickerson Beach, **Nassau**, 10 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)

**2018-57-A** One, Nickerson Beach, **Nassau**, 25 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra)

2018 was a good year for this species, most notably at Nickerson Beach, where five individuals were documented for NYSARC, including four by Shai Mitra. Shai is the person most responsible for educating birders on where and when to look for this species, as well as how to identify it (see Mitra 2009). As many birders know, field separation between Common and Arctic Terns can be very challenging. 2018 also saw the first two records of Arctic Tern for New York City that were accepted by NYSARC, both nicely documented by Peter Paul: an adult at Plumb Beach and a first-summer bird at Breezy Point. In addition to the reports submitted to NYSARC, there were four other identifiably different individuals at Nickerson Beach, eBirded on 6, 15, 18, and 24 Jun, and 11 other individuals reported to eBird from Old Inlet, Cupsogue CP, and Triton Lane, all Suffolk County, 9-28 Jun, these carefully vetted and documented by Shai Mitra (Mitra and Lindsay 2018). Due to the now well-documented regular occurrence of Arctic Tern on the barrier beaches along the south shore of Long Island, the Committee decided to remove the species from the review list for the downstate areas. Even

so, occurrence of this species varies greatly from year to year; observers should not expect it to be as easy to see as 2018's bounty might imply, and should always strive to obtain photos and provide detailed descriptions.

### **Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*)**

**2018-31-A** One, Nickerson Beach, **Nassau**, 19 Jun (Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, ph Z. Schwartz-Weinstein) eBird 19 Jun

**2018-53-A** One, Robert Moses State Park, **Suffolk**, 22 Jun (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra) The immature Sandwich Tern at Nickerson Beach was found by Doug Futuyma when it flew into his scope view! It was only seen by a few observers. The Sandwich Tern at Robert Moses SP was picked up by Shai Mitra during a seawatch and likewise was seen by just a few observers as it flew past.

### **Trindade Petrel (*Pterodroma arminjoniana*)**

**2018-37-A/C** One, Hudson Canyon, **Suffolk**, 20 Aug (Sean Sime, Tim Healy, John Gluth, ph S. Sime, T. Healy, J. Gluth). eBird 20 Aug

Attracted to the chum slick on this SeeLife Paulagics trip out of Brooklyn, a light morph Trindade petrel remained for several minutes, allowing for stunning views, great photos, and the opportunity to safely rule out other *Pterodroma* species. Just the second documented record for New York State, this spectacular highlight was nevertheless to some extent anticipated, based on the species' increasingly frequent detection in the Gulf Stream waters off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, over the past 30 years. In contrast, New York State's only prior record, which was also the first for North America, made little sense at the time. Found in a farm field in Tompkins Co. after the Hurricane of 1933 (Bull 1974), this record seemed for decades almost as outlandish as the enigmatic Mottled Petrel from Livingston County in April 1880 (Bull 1974), or the still-unresolved Hawk Mountain *Pterodroma* of 3 Oct 1959 (Carboneras *et al.* 2020). But vastly improved offshore coverage has revolutionized our understanding of one species after another, such that the once almost completely unknown Black-capped Petrel is now expected on carefully planned New York pelagics, and future occurrences of Trindade Petrels here are considered tantalizingly likely.

### **Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*)**

**2018-34-A** One, Pelagic, **Suffolk**, 30 Jul (Charles A. Witek III). eBird 30 Jul

This Brown Booby was seen as it flew past a shark-fishing boat by the captain, about ten miles off the south shore of Long Island. Reports of this species have clearly increased in these more northern realms in recent years.

### **Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)**

**2018-33-A/C** One, Morningside Park, **Sullivan**, 23, 29 Jul (Richard Guthrie, John H. Haas, Kenneth M. McDermott, ph R. Guthrie, J. Haas). eBird 23, 29 Jul

John Haas was kayaking on Morningside Lake, looking for shorebirds, when he came across what he assumed was a Double-crested Cormorant, which he photographed. Immediately after reviewing his photos, he realized that it was an

Anhinga! Other birders were able to see this mega-rarity the same day but not afterwards, until Haas himself found it again. In this latter observation the bird was in flight, gaining altitude as it circled over the lake. It was never seen again. This is only the fourth record reviewed and accepted by NYSARC.

### Roseate Spoonbill (*Platalea ajaja*)

**2018-35-A** One, Wallkill River NWR, **Orange**, 3 Aug (Kenneth M. McDermott). eBird 29 Jul, 2, 3, 5 Aug

Most sightings of this bird were on the New Jersey side of the wildlife refuge. On a few occasions, however, it was seen on the New York side, including one sighting where it was photographed over Oil City Road (eBird Mar 2021). The total range of dates that the spoonbill was reported was 22 Jul to 6 Aug, with dates that it was found on the New York side shown above (eBird Mar 2021). This is only the second record in the state, with the first occurring on 20 Aug 1992. Prior to 2018 the New York record appears to have been the most northerly of the records shown in eBird. In 2018 there was a remarkable incursion of this species northward. In addition to New York, records in 2018 came from the following states, several with multiple locations: Maine, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, and Minnesota (eBird Mar 2021).

### Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*)

**2018-17-A** One, East Northport, **Suffolk**, 28 Apr (Dennis Nowak)

**2018-19-A** One, Derby Hill Bird Obs., **Oswego**, 12 May (Joseph Brin). eBird 12 May

Both of these records involved birds flying over. The Northport bird was viewed by Dennis Nowak as it circled overhead briefly. The Derby Hill bird was seen by several people at this renowned hawkwatch, first spotted by Joe Brin. Records of this species have been increasing in the northeast, including many, like these two records, that would be classified as a “spring overshoot”, that is, a species that was spurred to migrate northward in spring but continued beyond the normal range of its breeding grounds.

### Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)

**2018-18-A** One, Stony Point, **Rockland**, 5 May (Alan Wells, ph A. Wells). eBird 5 May

**2018-21-A** One, Hempstead Lake State Park, **Nassau**, 9 May (Rich Kelly, ph Sheila Meehan). eBird 9 May

**2018-24-A** One, Hempstead Lake State Park, **Nassau**, 28 May (Tim Healy). eBird 28 May  
All three of these records involved birds flying over during May. Two were supported by excellent photographs. Although it is possible that the two records from Hempstead Lake involved the same bird, that does not seem very likely given the nearly three week separation of sightings at a heavily birded site. As with the Swallow-tailed Kite, most spring sightings of this species are considered overshoots from their more southerly range. It should be noted, however, that as spring overshoot records continue to increase, the possibility of another pair staying to breed in the state increases as well.

### **Boreal Owl (*Aegolius funereus*)**

**2018-16-A** One, Owl Woods, Braddock Bay WMA, **Monroe**, 25 Apr (Dominic Sherony, ph D. Sherony). eBird 25 Apr

This Boreal Owl was found by Nick Pusateri and his survey team at the renowned “owl woods” at Braddock Bay. A number of birders were able to see this owl, though it only stayed for one day.

### **Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*)**

**2018-48-A** One, Point Peninsula, **Jefferson**, 27 Dec (Gerald A. Smith, ph G. Smith)

**2018-50-A** One, West Chazy, **Clinton**, 24 Dec (Derek H. Rogers, ph D. Rogers)

Seeing a Gyrfalcon is a thrilling experience, even for the most experienced birders. Veteran birder and hawk-watcher, the late Gerry Smith, had the rare opportunity to study an apparent adult gray-morph bird at length at Point Peninsula in Jefferson County, even hearing the bird call in response to a Northern Harrier flying overhead which dropped its talons. Along the shore of Lake Champlain, Derek Rogers, another veteran birder who has extensive experience with Peregrine Falcons, immediately knew he had something different when he saw this large long-tailed falcon flying towards him. A brief look in binoculars convinced him that he was looking at a white-morph Gyrfalcon. Hurriedly, he jumped out of his vehicle and managed a few photos of the falcon, providing very helpful supplementary documentation. The photos show the underside of the body and wings as it is flying away and it is obvious that the bird is a very pale large falcon. Rogers indicated that less than a half-mile from his sighting and two days later, a perched white-morph Gyrfalcon was photographed by Tara Fuller, almost certainly the same bird.

### **Ash-throated Flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*)**

**2018-54-A** One, Heckscher State Park, **Suffolk**, 31 Oct (Shaibal S. Mitra, ph S. Mitra). eBird 31 Oct-1 Nov

Joan Quinlan found this Ash-throated Flycatcher which lingered for only two days at Heckscher SP. A fairly reliable if very scarce annual migrant on the coast, this species is still quite rare, and deserves special scrutiny to rule out other even rarer *Myiarchus* species.

### **Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*)**

**2018-44-A/B** One, Jones Beach State Park, **Nassau**, 10 Nov (Peter Reisfeld, Tim Healy, ph P. Reisfeld, T. Healy). eBird 10 Nov

Peter Reisfeld and Bobbi Veltri discovered this one-day-wonder Gray Kingbird at Jones Beach, which a few birders were able to tick off their lists. As with the great majority of records of this southern breeder in New York, the bird was recorded during the fall, likely a “reverse migrant”.

### **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus forficatus*)**

**2018-39-A/D** One, New Scotland, **Albany**, 08-14 Oct (Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, Scott Stoner, Kenneth M. McDermott, Thomas Williams, ph Z. Schwartz-Weinstein, S. Stoner, T. Williams). eBird 8-14, 16-18 Oct

**2018-42-A/B** One, Montauk, **Suffolk**, 20-21 Oct (Tim Healy, Patricia Lindsay, ph T. Healy, P. Lindsay). eBird 20-21, 28 Oct

The Albany flycatcher was found by Larry Alden and enjoyed by many over its 11 day stay. The Montauk bird, found by Joe Giunta, appeared two days after the upstate bird went missing, and there was some speculation that it might be the same bird. Tim Healy's report suggests that this would have been quite a feat for the flycatcher to have traveled so far in that time period, and that broad weather patterns and favorable conditions for vagrancy may have been more of a factor, a sentiment that many experienced birders agree with.

### **Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)**

**2018-43-A/B** One, Heckscher State Park, **Suffolk**, 28, 30 Oct (Tim Healy, Patricia Lindsay, ph T. Healy, P. Lindsay). eBird 28-30 Oct

This accommodating rarity, found by Lisa Nasta, was not put off by the hordes of birders that descended upon the site as news spread through emails, apps, and phone calls. It stayed faithful to a rather restricted area of the park for three days, hawking insects from low perches along the median and roadway. A highly stereotypical mid- to late-September vagrant in the state, and occasionally found into mid-October, this bird was somewhat notable in its late October appearance.

### **Golden-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*)**

**2018-49-A/D** One, Downsville, **Delaware**, 30 Dec 2018-5 Jan 2019 (Lance Verderame, John Haas, Kenneth M. McDermott, Tim Healy, ph J. Haas, T. Healy). eBird 30 Dec 2018, 2-6, 8-13, 16, 18, 19, 26 Jan, 10, 17, 24 Feb, 2, 3, 6, 9, 17 Mar, 6 Apr 2019

While scouting for the local Christmas Bird Count, Lance Verderame made the exciting discovery of this immature Golden-crowned Sparrow. He contacted John Haas, who was able to document the bird with photographs. The bird was likely seen by hundreds of birders during the course of its stay, which was for over three months. In an article in *The Kingbird*, Verderame recounts the discovery of this bird and how he contacted the local residents and police to make them aware ahead of time of the crush of birders that might ensue (Verderame 2019). Verderame's forethought worked, as the local residents reportedly enjoyed the presence of the birders and, no doubt, the extra income that they injected into the local economy. If only all mega-rarity stories could end so happily.

### **Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*)**

**2018-6-A/B** One, Township of Montezuma, **Cayuga**, 13-14 Feb (Kevin McGann, Bill Purcell, ph K. McGann, Donna Carter). eBird 10, 11, 13, 14 Feb

Donna Carter had the pleasure of discovering this Green-tailed Towhee at her feeding station. The bird was seen over a five-day period but only sporadically visited the feeders. Although the bird appeared in eBird when found, the location was not mapped precisely. Despite attempts to find out by local birding leaders,

it was not known if the homeowner would be concerned about privacy should the sighting be made known to the statewide birding community. So, at least at first, the sighting was not made broadly public. As a result, relatively few birders had the opportunity to see the towhee. This was the first record of Green-tailed Towhee reviewed and accepted by NYSARC, and only the fourth confirmed record of this western species for New York, the last being in 1977 (Rising 1998). There is also a sight record, an unusual spring record from 1969 seen by multiple observers, which, given credence by Bull (1974), deserves mention.

#### **Western Meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*)**

**2018-12-A/B** One, Savannah, **Wayne**, 14, 20 Apr 22 May (Joseph Brin, Doug Daniels, ph D. Daniels). eBird 14-30 Apr, 5-7, 10-14, 16, 17, 18-27, 29, 31 May, 4, 8, 9 Jul

Joe Brin heard an unfamiliar song coming from the field in front of him and soon discovered that it was a meadowlark making the vocalization. Checking with his Sibley app, he confirmed that the bird was a Western Meadowlark. The bird was seen in the area, apparently maintaining a territory, into July. However, there was a roughly five week gap in which there were no reports. This could be due to the bird singing less, as many birds do when they get to a certain stage in the breeding cycle. Without the aid of the distinctive song, many birders would have a difficult time identifying the species, though the call note differs from Eastern Meadowlark as well. Unfortunately, it is unknown if this bird had a mate and, if so, whether it was an Eastern or a Western Meadowlark. This is the first record in the state since 2007, when one was found in Chautauqua County (Wilson, *et al* 2009).

#### **Kirtland's Warbler (*Setophaga kirtlandii*)**

**2018-20-A** One, Central Park, **New York**, 12 May (David J. Ringer, ph D. Ringer). eBird 11-13 May

New York's third accepted record for this formerly endangered species was found by Kevin Topping late in the day on 11 May, and delighted hundreds of birders by remaining cooperative for two more days. An adult male, this beauty sang readily as it foraged among the trees, often giving stunning views.

The above record is actually the fourth documented record for the state. A credible report from 18 May 2010, from Wilson, Niagara County, was submitted to NYSARC, but because it was a single observer sighting without a photograph, it precluded acceptance as a first state record. However, it is included in the 2010 report in the Supplemental category, which documents reports that are fully convincing but which fall short of the rigorous requirements for full acceptance onto the state checklist (Wilson, *et al.* 2012).

#### **Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)**

**2018-15-A** One, Prospect Park, **Kings**, 16 Apr (Peter Paul, ph P. Paul). eBird 16 Apr

Peter Paul happened upon this bird late in the day, and managed a few photos during its two minute stay. This species has shown a pattern of almost annual fall and winter occurrence in the state, occasionally overwintering; however, it is rare

for this heavily birded park, and is only the second record documented in eBird for that location.

### **Painted Bunting (*Passerina ciris*)**

**2018-25-A** One, Elmsford, **Westchester**, 31 Mar, 2 Apr (Julia Rogers, ph Adrian Rogers). eBird 2 Apr

Discovered and photographed by feeder watchers who were unfamiliar with the species, this green-plumaged bird was apparently not seen by any other birders. The homeowners forwarded the description and photos to the Cornell Lab Facebook page and to eBird for confirmation, and submitted this report to NYSARC at the suggestion of Tom Burke, which is much appreciated.

## **2018 Reports Not Accepted**

### **Barnacle Goose (*Branta leucopsis*)**

**2018-8-A** One, Town of Fayette, **Seneca**, 24 Feb

This was an unlucky situation where a birder found this bird at a distance but only had binoculars. He was pretty sure that it was a Barnacle Goose but could not be certain. He raced home for a spotting scope and returned, only to find that the geese had moved on. With the possibility that this could have been an aberrant-plumaged Canada Goose, which are not infrequent, the Committee reluctantly decided not to accept the record.

### **Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*)**

**2018-38-A** One, Clove Lakes Park, **Richmond**, 17 Sep

This report was submitted by an experienced observer, who saw the bird in flight. Although the description provided was suggestive of this species, there were too many missing details for the Committee to agree to accept the record.

### **Yellow-bellied x Red-naped Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius/nuchalis*)**

**2018-23-A** One, Esopus, **Ulster**, 26 Feb

This was an interesting report, which included photos of a *Sphyrapicus* woodpecker. The bird can be sexed as a male by its completely red throat with no white on the chin. It appears essentially like a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*S. varius*) but with noticeable red on the nape. In addition, the red throat barely bleeds into the black throat border at the corners. Although the latter might suggest the influence of *nuchalis*, Committee members felt that it was too minimal. Yellow-bellied does occasionally show red on the nape and since the red intruding into the black throat border was so minimal, the Committee decided that the case for a hybrid combination was not supported strongly enough.

### **Gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*)**

**2018-7-A** One, Jones Beach, **Nassau**, 1 Feb

**2018-9-A** One, Nanuet, **Rockland**, 19 Mar

The Jones Beach report was for a bird seen flying past the observer. Although the pointed wings and bulky size that were noted are suggestive of a Gyrfalcon,

Committee members were concerned about the missing details, such as the pattern of the underside of the wings, which should be paler on the flight feathers than on a Peregrine Falcon. The Rockland County report was also for a bird seen in flight. The underside was described as white with no barring and the back as uniform and light, white to whitish-gray. If this was a Gyrfalcon this would be the rarest and palest color morph that is seen in the state. Unfortunately, without knowing what the wing shape was, it is even possible that this was a leucistic Red-tailed Hawk, which had been seen in the area in recent years.

#### **LeConte's Sparrow (*Ammospiza leconteii*)**

**2018-40-A** One, Albany Pine Bush Preserve, **Albany**, 5 Oct

This report involved a four minute observation of a sparrow showing buff on the side of the head, throat, and flanks, a clean white belly, and fine dark streaking along the flanks. The upperparts were reported to show dark centers with buff edges. Although this report received some support from Committee members, most felt that the close similarity between some LeConte's and Nelson's Sparrows, in addition to the missing details of the crown and nape, were enough for them not to accept a report of such a rare species.

#### **Brewer's Blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*)**

**2018-11-A** Four, Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Preserve, **Saratoga**, 8 Apr

This submission of three male and one female Brewer's Blackbirds along the edge of the Mohawk River seemed better for the similar Rusty Blackbird than Brewer's, to most Committee members. Although the iridescent green tint noted might suggest Brewer's, Rusty can also show this in some lights. Importantly, the female was noted to be all gray, which is better for Rusty, as female Brewer's are more brownish gray. A distinctive character to help separate females of the two species is the eye color, normally dark in Brewer's and light in Rusty. Unfortunately, the eye color was not noted.

#### **MacGillivray's Warbler (*Geothlypis tolmiei*)**

**2018-27-A** One, Ulster Park, **Ulster**, 15 May

This was an intriguing report from a lone observer. The circumstances of the observation, as well as the habitat, were well described and the observer also included a colored drawing of the bird, placed on a photograph of the bush that the bird was perched in. However, it was not stated whether the sketch was from memory of what was observed or simply taken from a field guide. For such a remarkably rare species, reviewers felt that more was needed. The observer initially thought that she was hearing and seeing a Mourning Warbler and only considered MacGillivray's Warbler, of which she was previously unaware, after the sighting. The call that was heard seems to be what made her suspect that this was not a Mourning Warbler. It is assumed that she meant song, rather than call. However, the song and its difference from that of a Mourning Warbler were not described. Although some Committee members felt that the sighting could be correct, none felt that the evidence rose to the level of acceptance.

## **1984 Report Not Accepted**

### **Eurasian Blackbird (*Turdus merula*)**

**1984-52-A** Six to ten, Goat Island, Niagara, 5 Aug

This was a very unusual report, submitted about 34 years after the sighting, from someone visiting Niagara Falls on his honeymoon. There was no photographic evidence, just a description of what was observed. The report implies that the identification of these six to ten males was made two years after the fact, when he observed his life Eurasian Blackbirds in England. Several aspects of this report would be extremely unusual for this species, especially the occurrence of six to ten individuals, the location, well away from the East coast, and the time of year. Even the possibility that these birds were escapes is highly improbable. The observer wrote that he was stunned to see American Robins that were all black. He also noted a yellow-orange bill and a light-colored eyering. While this description is clearly consistent with the species, documentation for such an extraordinary sighting would need to be much stronger to be accepted. A glance at eBird shows only two records in all of North America (eBird March 2021).

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### **Submitted on behalf of the New York State Avian Records Committee:**

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# **JANUARY WATERFOWL COUNT 2022**

## **Bill Ostrander**

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More than 381 volunteers went into the field 15-23 January 2022 and conducted the New York State Ornithological Association's January Waterfowl Count. The volunteers logged 1086.66 party-hours and counted 384,400 waterfowl. The methodology of the count is described in detail by Swift (2007: January waterfowl counts, 2005-2007, and some observations on long-term trends; *The Kingbird* 57: 198-213).

## **WEATHER CONDITIONS**

Daily high temperatures in January leading up to the count period were mostly above freezing throughout the state, but most lows were below 25° F. Many lows in much of the state were single-digit or below zero. Both Saturdays in the count period were very cold with temperatures well below zero. Consequently, only large bodies of water and turbulent portions of streams were open. Several inches of snow fell 17-18 January and most of it persisted through the count period.

## **RESULTS**

In this summary, I will compare the 2022 numbers with the average annual numbers from the decade, 2001-2010. The total number of waterfowl counted this year, 384,400, was 694 (0.18%) more than the average for the 2001-2010 decade. Canada Geese, Brant, and Mute and Tundra Swans compensated for the lower numbers of dabbling ducks, diving ducks, and all other waterfowl.

Some species had higher counts than the 2001-2010 decade average: Ross's Goose, Canada Goose, Cackling Goose, Pink-footed Goose (the Count's first), Brant, Mute Swan, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, and Ruddy Duck. The counts of 150 Wood Ducks, 44,589 Redheads, 5,506 Ring-necked Ducks and 3,459 Hooded Mergansers were the highest counts ever.

## **LONG-TERM TRENDS**

We have been watching for many years the long-term trend of increasing numbers of Tundra Swans wintering in New York State, the number peaking at 4,065 in 2016. In 2022, the count was 1,473, down from last year.

By comparing the averages for the periods 1973-2000, 2001-2010, and 2013-2022 possible long-term trends in New York State's winter waterfowl populations can be identified. Possible long-term increases can thus be seen for Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Brant, Trumpeter Swan, Tundra Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Common Eider, Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Hooded Merganser, and Red-breasted Merganser. Long-term decreases may be happening to American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, scaup (sp.), White-winged Scoter, Common Merganser and Great Cormorant.

## FUTURE COUNTS

You can help with the 2023 count by contacting your Regional compiler. Compiler contact information, and also historical data from past counts, is available online at:

<http://nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>

The January Waterfowl Count is conducted in a nine-day period that begins the Saturday before Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (the third Monday in January). The next two count periods will be: 14-22 Jan 2023 (target date Sunday, 15 Jan); and 13-21 Jan 2024 (target date Sunday, 14 Jan).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2022 January Waterfowl Count. The many dedicated field observers volunteered many hours in the field. Regional and local compilers and coordinators deserve special thanks for making sure that the state had good coverage and for compiling the data in a timely manner. The Regional compilers, this year, were:

<b>Region</b>	<b>Compiler</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Compiler</b>
1	Debbie Suggs	6	Jeff Bolsinger
2	Robert Spahn	7	Gary Lee
3	Bill Ostrander	8	Bryan Swift
4	Gail Kirch	9	Sean Camillieri
5	Bill Purcell	10	Clifford Hagen

Table 1. Regional totals for the 2022 January Waterfowl Count.

<b>Species/Region</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Total</b>
Snow Goose	1	0	1,092	2	9	0	0	2	13	652	1,771
Ross's Goose	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Gr. White-fr. Goose	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	6
Pink-footed Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Brant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	119	18,822	18,941
Cackling Goose	7	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	2	16
Canada Goose	13,385	18,872	36,594	5,893	10,363	2,820	440	7,463	31,819	43,712	171,361
Mute Swan	11	449	37	0	56	104	0	1	567	79	2,015
Trumpeter Swan	0	0	0	0	13	14	0	0	0	0	27
Tundra Swan	643	3	728	5	62	32	0	0	0	0	1,473
swan species	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wood Duck	4	0	5	0	6	0	1	0	9	125	150
Blue-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northern Shoveler	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	726	800
Gadwall	26	1	106	16	4	11	1	0	141	1,195	1,501
Eurasian Wigeon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Am. Wigeon	10	0	99	0	1	0	0	0	26	389	525
Mallard	3,544	4,868	6,318	1,603	4,293	1,445	1,357	1,296	4,757	6,082	36,231
Am. Black Duck	145	681	1,093	166	362	155	80	180	768	3,930	7,560
Mallard X Black Duck	4	7	0	0	0	0	4	0	9	55	79
Northern Pintail	5	4	17	8	5	0	1	0	6	83	129
Green-winged Teal	1	1	8	0	1	0	0	0	15	153	179
Canvasback	5,515	4	19	1	0	0	0	0	3	131	5,673
Redhead	2,679	6,463	27,016	53	312	8,000	0	0	2	64	44,589
Ring-necked Duck	157	353	293	63	38	4	6	18	4,168	406	5,506
Tufted Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Greater Scaup	1,943	536	438	5	65	430	2	0	418	5,844	9,681

<b>Species/Region</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Total</b>
Lesser Scaup	10	108	1,759	18	1	2	3	0	43	1190	3,134
scaup species	5,801	103	6	6	4	0	0	0	7	709	6,636
King Eider	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Common Eider	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	328	328
Harlequin Duck	0	3	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	7
Surf Scoter	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	136	141
White-winged Scoter	417	211	12	0	6	0	0	0	3	947	1,596
Black Scoter	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	271	272
scoter species	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	665	666
Long-tailed Duck	1,083	2,846	6	0	615	2,999	0	0	92	2,020	9,661
Bufflehead	1,373	33	237	21	40	67	37	2	513	3,948	6,271
Com. Goldeneye	3,242	1,134	2,217	156	624	2,031	734	611	174	780	11,703
Barrow's Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hooded Merganser	63	43	237	372	111	6	23	112	805	1,687	3,459
Com. Merganser	1,337	177	3,196	488	1,721	4,261	966	245	3,911	184	16,486
Red-br. Merganser	1,489	4,577	337	0	242	76	2	2	95	1,756	8,576
Ruddy Duck	0	6	1	1	0	0	0	1	87	4,003	4,099
Pied-billed Grebe	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	29	16	46
Horned Grebe	0	21	2	0	0	0	8	0	3	107	141
Red-necked Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	3
Eared Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Am. Coot	3	81	159	22	6	0	0	0	141	147	559
Red-throated Loon	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	99	109
Common Loon	0	2	5	0	0	1	1	0	24	206	239
Great Cormorant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	88	123
Dbl.-cr. Cormorant	17	13	4	1	40	0	0	0	2	122	199
Other/Unidentified	946	6	254	0	1	106	0	150	161	103	1,727
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>43,865</b>	<b>41,613</b>	<b>82,299</b>	<b>8,900</b>	<b>19,003</b>	<b>22,567</b>	<b>3,669</b>	<b>10,083</b>	<b>49,013</b>	<b>103,388</b>	<b>384,400</b>

# 1948 LONG ISLAND WATERFOWL SURVEY RESULTS

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**Editor's Note**—In 2022, I received a box of Christopher McKeever's field notes and bird records. Among these was a report that sheds light on a precursor of the January Waterfowl Count so familiar to NYSOA members and the broader New York State ornithological community. Publishing it here makes it available alongside the long-term waterfowl count data available in *The Kingbird*. Species names are as given in the original report, with clarifications provided in some cases in square brackets.

After a lapse of seven years, the Annual Long Island Waterfowl Survey has been started again. This Survey, the fifth one, was taken on December 11 and 12. The choice of dates was a fortunate one, as it was the weekend before the big snow storm. The weather prior to that time had been quite warm; in fact it was the warmest autumn on record and there was no killing frost recorded by the New York City Weather Bureau until November 30. The weather on the days of the Survey was fairly good and the coverage of the best areas was virtually complete. However, the Great South Bay east of Fire Island Inlet was covered from the north shore only and this was somewhat inadequate. In addition, due to a misunderstanding, the Orient Peninsula was not entirely covered, so that the figures given for the species usually most numerous, namely, scaup, black duck, scoter and the sea ducks are somewhat below the true figure.

Similar surveys at about the same time of year were made previously in the four consecutive years from 1938-1941 when the war forced a discontinuance. The waterfowl were on an up trend at that time which ended in the peak year of 1944. Thereafter their numbers decreased substantially. Unfortunately, no local survey data is available for 1942-1947.

Most of the pond ducks, other than black ducks and sporting bay ducks other than scaup, have definitely increased over their averages for the years 1938 through 1941 and it is believed that the Survey was most accurate with respect to these species. Of the above groups only the Pintail, Shoveller and Gadwall showed no increase in numbers, although neither did they show any substantial decrease.

In addition to the factor of incomplete coverage of Great South Bay and Orient Peninsula mentioned above, another important factor in the small counts of scoters and sea ducks is that the season on most ducks closed only four days prior to the Survey, and the shooting season for scoters was still open in Long Island Sound and Gardiners Bay. Consequently, many birds of the species mentioned above were resting way out beyond the reach of land based observers. Another factor in the case of black ducks is that a substantial number of them were probably still resting on the ocean or far out on the Sound in the daytime and

coming in to feed only at night. However, the black duck count is above that for the year 1941, when the survey was conducted toward the end of open season.

The following is a list, in the order of their abundance, of the species recorded in the Survey. The figures to the right of the numbers recorded on the Survey are various data from the 1938-1941 surveys which provides some basis for striking an average on the figures:

Rank	Species	Number	Data from 1938-41 counts			
			Average	High	Total	Low
1	Scaup	33,224	65,437			45,921
2	Black Duck	16,331	21,742			14,069
3	White Winged Scoter	10,733	21,882			11,657
4	Coot	3,714	201	440	804	
5	Red Br. Merganser	2,730	5,093			
6	Ruddy Duck	2,460	102	265	407	
7	Baldpate <sup>1</sup>	1,442	432		1,727	
8	Goldeneye	1,260	6,523			1,872
9	Old Squaw <sup>2</sup>	1,213	4,885			2,094
10	Mallard	961	858			
11	Canada Goose	832	357	515		
12	Green Winged Teal	644	141		565	
13	Surf Scoter	581	3,645			1,531
14	Canvasback	533	107		429	
15	Pintail	500	527			
16	Bufflehead	499	189	233		
17	Mute Swan	467	212	265		
18	Ring Necked Duck	377	79		314	
19	American Scoter <sup>3</sup>	343	769			345
20	Hooded Merganser	85	30	44		
21	Am. Merganser <sup>4</sup>	62	196			76
22	Brant	30	1,528	5,180		5
23	Redhead	27	13		54	
24	Shoveller	16	22			9
25	Gadwall	9	25			7
26	European Widgeon	7	4			
27	Wood Duck	2				
28	European Teal	1				
29	King Eider	1				
	Snow Goose	5,449				
	Blue Goose	5				
	Unidentified ducks					
	over 96% scoter	13,249				
		97,785				

[<sup>1</sup>American Wigeon; <sup>2</sup>Long-tailed Duck; <sup>3</sup>Black Scoter; <sup>4</sup>Common Merganser.]

One is immediately struck by the great decrease in the number of scaup. The two areas not adequately covered could hardly have brought the total up to that of the lowest year prior to this. It is possible that because of the relatively warm weather prior to the Survey, the scaup had not yet come down in their normal numbers. It is also possible that many of the birds which usually come into this area were among the 25,000 killed by oil on Lake St. Peter in the St. Lawrence River when a makeshift tanker went aground and spilled its cargo earlier this fall.

The number of black duck might have been increased to some extent if the Great South Bay had been adequately covered and a few more might have been added from the Orient region. Taking that into consideration, the present count would compare favorably with those of 1940 and 1941 which were taken during the hunting season, but does not stand up so well as compared with 1938 and 1939 when the survey was conducted after the hunting season. It is obvious that the black duck, which provides most of the local shooting, lagged behind the other sporting ducks in its increase. In 1940 nine other species of sporting ducks, excluding mallard and scaup, had a population equal to nearly 8% of that of the black duck. In 1941 they equaled nearly 12%. In 1948, without considering the ruddy duck, which increased tremendously, eight species of sporting ducks formed a population about equal to one-fifth of the black duck and, if we include the ruddy duck also over one-third.

It should be pointed out that the increases noted above are over pre-1941 figures and we have no comparable figures for 1944 which was the high point of waterfowl population in recent years.

The current Survey revealed two rather extraordinary conditions. The more interesting of these, from the standpoint of the bird watcher, is the fact that those observers on the south shore who chose the 12<sup>th</sup> to be out in the field witnessed the greatest flight of Snow Geese ever in this area. Those observers on the north shore on the same day did not see a single bird of this species. The Snow Geese and the few Blue Geese accompanying them obviously cannot be included in the Survey figures but, if they were, the Snow Geese would be in the remarkable position of being the fourth most abundant of our local waterfowl. Most of these birds were seen over the western half of the south shore. It is probable, although this has not as yet been checked with the Weather Bureau, that the steady southwest wind which was bowing all that day had pushed the birds off their usual direct course from a point slightly east of Quebec south to Delaware Bay. In addition, it seemed to have tired the birds, as nearly all of the observers noticed that they were quite ready to alight and were deterred from doing so only by their unfamiliarity with the area. Many of the flocks at the west end were seen to mill around quite aimlessly for awhile and finally to head straight across the ocean toward the Jersey coast.

The second extraordinary feature of this Survey was the unusually high counts of Ruddy Duck and Coot. At no time prior to this Survey did the Coot ever rank higher than the 13<sup>th</sup> most abundant species nor did the Ruddy Duck ever rank higher than the 14<sup>th</sup> most abundant species, yet this year the Coot was the 4<sup>th</sup> most

abundant species and the Ruddy Duck the 6<sup>th</sup>. Concurrently, more than four times as many Coot were recorded on this Survey as were seen on all the four previous surveys and more than six times the number of Ruddy Ducks recorded on the previous surveys were seen during this Survey.

Obviously something more than mere improvement of status due to a good breeding season is here involved and the explanation of the phenomenon can probably only be found by analyzing data from all over the country. It hardly seems possible that these two species had so extraordinarily good a breeding season and that their total numbers increased to that extent while all the other species merely had a fairly good breeding season. Both species appeared in numbers in the area prior to the first half of the open season and increased in numbers during the intermediate closing season. Apparently, they survived the hunting in this area quite well.

It is interesting to note the steady deterioration of the feeding grounds in this area favorable to the better sporting ducks by referring to a couple of comparable surveys taken, one this year and the other back in 1924. This deterioration is most marked at the present time in Moriches and Shinnecock Bays, since both of them now have permanent outlets to the ocean.

The same thing has happened, on a much smaller and more easily recorded scale, at Lake Montauk where a misguided real estate developer put a permanent outlet through to Gardiners Bay, thereby rapidly and permanently salting a nearly fresh water pond, the largest in Long Island.

On Lake Montauk, in December 4, 1924, there were observed the following species in the following numbers:

Canada Goose – 30, Brant – 20, Mallard – 11, Black Duck – 50, Green-winged teal – 1, Baldpate – 100, European Widgeon – 2, Pintail – 5, Canvasback – 1000, Redhead – 500, Scaup – 50, Ring-necked duck – 4, Goldeneye – 50, Bufflehead – 7, Old Squaw – 12, American Merganser – 12, Red-breasted Merganser – 100, Hooded Merganser – 9.

18 species, nearly 2000 individuals, also another 2000 Coot.

On the same pond on this Survey, December 11, 1948, the following species were seen in the following numbers:

Scaup – 850, Old Squaw – 22, Scoter – 124.  
3 species, 996 individuals.

The above sets of figures speak for themselves and it is not to be wondered that the shooting in those areas is much poorer than it formerly was.

Thirty-two observers participated in this Survey, of whom nineteen were assigned territories. The other thirteen cooperated with one or the other of the above observers but, unfortunately, most of the latter were on the western end of the Island. Below is set forth a list of the observers responsible for territories, followed by those who assisted them:

**Assigned Observers**—Richard Adelson, New York City; Robert Arbib, Jr., Freeport, L.I.; Daniel Berolzheimer, Massapequa, L.I.; Herman Bohn, Flushing, L.I.; John L. Bull, Jr., Far Rockaway, L.I.; John Elliott, Seaford, L.I.; John W. Flavin, Jr., Floral Park, L.I.; John L and Dr. Wm. T. Helmuth III, East Hampton, L.I.; John Mayer, Ozone Park L.I.; C. K. McKeever, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Dr. Robert C. Murphy, American Museum of Natural History, New York City; Theodore Pettit, Inwood, L.I.; Gilbert Raynor, Manorville, L.I.; George Rose, Mineola, L.I.; Peter Scott, East Hampton, L.I.; Walter Sedwitz, New York City; LeRoy Wilcox, Speonk, L.I.; Rawson Wood, Flower Hill, L.I.

**Cooperating Observers**—Irwin Alperin, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Gilbert Banner, Forest Hills, L.I.; Ben Berliner, Hewlett, L.I.; Harry Darrow, Mt. Vernon, N.Y.; Herman Goebel and Dr. Malcolm Jacobson of Brooklyn, N.Y.; George Komorowski and David Roche of The Bronx, N.Y.; Don Ross, Port Washington, L.I.; George D. and Thomas K. Scott, East Hampton, L.I.; David Slade and Jack Wells of Kew Gardens, L.I.

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## NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

### Crossbill in Northern New York, 28-30 January 2022: A Banner Season for Crossbills

**Matt**—We covered Sabattis Bog, Long Lake, Newcomb, Minerva, and then drove down to Piseco and Lake Pleasant.

In the 20+ years I've been doing crossbill work in New York State, 2022 was the best overall crossbill year I've seen for both species at the same time. For White-winged Crossbills alone, the 2001-02 breeding event was just unbelievable. They were singing everywhere even if there were only 5-10 spruces in a boggy spot—but you could barely find a Red Crossbill during that event. 2022 was the second best year for white-wings I've seen.

We've had a number of good Red Crossbill years since then, like in 2003, 2005, 2008, 2012, 2017, but what we witnessed during this weekend was pretty special for any crossbill/finch fan. Lots of flight songs, pairing, singing and chasing were observed for both crossbill species. The Red Crossbills were pretty ubiquitous, while the White-winged Crossbills were in the best boreal forest pockets—but in smaller numbers elsewhere as well. Reds outnumbered the white-wings in most locations except in the best boreal pockets.

What's also interesting about this Red Crossbill event is it was basically almost entirely made up of only our northeastern call type, Type 10. Most good Red Crossbill years we have a mix of Type 3 and some Type 1 and 2 as well. I finally observed a Type 1 in the southern Adirondacks south of Hoffmeister as I was leaving the park. All told, we had close to 200 Red Crossbills and 110 White-winged Crossbills. We had almost 100 Pine Siskins as well.

There are Type 1 and some Type 10 in the southern part of the state too, and I'm interested to see if Type 10 has expanded its breeding range southward into

southern NY and PA where Type 1 is the more common type. There are some Type 10 in PA that sound like they could be breeding.

While warming weather and a late April snowstorm prevented these numbers from turning into a full-scale breeding event, birders participating in the New York Breeding Bird Atlas ultimately confirmed breeding for White-winged Crossbills at Sabattis Bog, at several sites in Newcomb, and Raquette Lake, while probable breeding behavior was recorded in two dozen additional atlas blocks. Atlassers have confirmed Red Crossbills in more than 40 atlas blocks so far across the Adirondacks and central New York, with probable breeding in dozens more.

**Ryan**—There were never not finches during our trip. Every time we opened the car door we heard a Purple Finch or one of the crossbills flying over. Effort consisted mostly of driving along the road and stopping to listen, getting out of the car to record flocks that seemed especially large or to photograph birds gritting on the road.

Each moment topped the last. Many of the highlights were on the first day. On Blue Ridge Road, a Golden Eagle circled us for several minutes, and many expletives were uttered. Immediately following, we caught up with a pure flock of Boreal Chickadees, all vocalizing, one bird sitting in the open and getting chased by a Black-capped while White-winged Crossbills chipped overhead. An hour later on Tahawus Road, we experienced boreal bird bacchanalia; crossbills doing song flights and feeding, siskins singing, and goldfinches flying all around, all while a goshawk called and then circled above us for a minute or more.

Most of the crossbills in the Adirondacks were rather skittish, but in Piseco on the southern edge of the park, we seemed to have found a communal hangout spot for the birds. Red Crossbills were singing, gritting, courting, and eating. Flocks flew in and out of the spot, making it hard to keep count. A crossbill almost landed on my head. Two of my photos are on page 161.

We also spent lots of time documenting the cone crop. Red, white, and black spruce all appeared to be good to very good, as did hemlock. Pines had few cones on them, and we noted some, but not a lot of catkins on the birches.

It was a great time, we encountered lots of great people and are happy that many got to experience the winter 2022 finch bounty.

**Weather**—Friday 1/28: Cloudy, wind NW 5mph, 20 degrees dropping to 15 in the afternoon. Saturday 1/29: Cloudy, clearing later in the day. 1 degree in the AM, rising to 7 degrees and back down to 1 in the afternoon. Wind N 10mph, turning NW later in the day. Sunday 1/30: Clear all day, wind NW 5mph. -16 degrees at daybreak, warming to the 10s as we drove south.

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## An Apparent European Herring Gull (*Larus argentatus argentatus*) at Old Field Point, Suffolk County, Long Island

Old Field Point, on the shore of Long Island Sound in northwestern Suffolk County, NY, was a prime place to view wintering gulls in early 2022. A returning Black-headed, multiple Bonaparte's, a bright white Glaucous, multiple Iceland, and two Lesser Black-backed Gulls mingled with the common three: Ring-billed, American Herring, and Great Black-backed Gulls. Of the hundreds of gulls present, a few Great Black-backs and American Herring Gulls displayed varying amounts of yellow on their legs, but on 22 Feb at 11:43 a.m. in good light, one gull stood out from the rest to PD and other observers (including Douglas Futuyma, Barbara LaGois, and Peter Osswald).

Its bright yellow legs and slightly darker mantle tone were very unlike the locally abundant North American subspecies *L. a. smithsonianus*, and also the several variants showing some yellow tones on the legs. PD and Barbara shared photos with SSM and Patricia Lindsay, who studied the bird on 23 and 27 Feb and contributed to online discussions regarding its identity. The bird was seen and photographed by many and was last seen by PD on 30 Mar.

Among the identification candidates proposed in early discussions were Yellow-legged Gull (*L. michahellis*) and hybrids between Herring Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus graellsii/intermedius*). SSM was struck by the bird's strong detailed resemblance to Herring Gull in multiple respects and suggested that variant Herring Gulls should also be considered. It is not unusual for *smithsonianus* to show yellow leg color in late winter and spring, as noted by PD at Old Field Point this winter, and as extensively documented by SSM (unpubl. data). Yellow-legged individuals occur even more frequently among nominate *L. a. argentatus* breeding near the Baltic Sea and in northernmost Europe (Malling Olsen and Larsson 2003), and, as these populations also show darker mantles than other Herring Gulls, this possibility was considered as well.

**Description**—The overall size and structure were very much like Herring Gull, with a heavy bill, broad wings, angular nape and fierce countenance; the mantle tone was subtly but quite clearly slightly darker than *smithsonianus* or Ring-billed Gull (*L. delawarensis*); field impressions of this trait were noticeably variable according to lighting and angle, as were photos. The legs and feet were bright yellow, lacking drab pinkish or grayish tones. The bill was clear, bright yellow lacking dusky markings, and the red gonys spot was slightly longer than in most *smithsonianus*, though not as extensive as in breeding-condition *L. fuscus graellsii/intermedius*. The irides were clear yellow, not whitish; the orbital ring was described by several observers as red, though this was not discerned by SSM; the nape was coarsely streaked, whereas the crown and face showed finer streaking, forming a squarish panel around the eye and onto the cheek. The wingtips showed lots of white on pp 9-10 and restricted black on pp 6-8, compared

to most local *smithsonianus* (although probably matched by some). Notably, the apical spots on the primaries were definitely larger than in all *smithsonianus* present for direct comparison, a contrast also evident in large series of photos of Herring Gulls from Long Island. See photos, pages 164-165.

**Identification**—The large white apical spots and relatively restricted black on the primaries are obvious and distinctive features strongly counter-indicative of Yellow-legged Gull, a taxon anticipated as a vagrant but as yet still unconfirmed in NYS. Although some local *smithsonianus* regularly show yellow legs in late winter and early spring, the color is almost never as clear and pure yellow as in this case. Mantle tone is less variable among local *smithsonianus*, and otherwise typical examples never or almost never appear as dark as this bird. Additional features pointing away from *smithsonianus* include the relatively large red gonys spot, the red orbital ring, and, to a much lesser extent, the wingtip pattern, which shows less black than is present in most populations of *smithsonianus* (northeasternmost populations have least black, resembling *argentatus*: Malling Olsen and Larsson 2003).

Many observers and commentators noted that the mantle and soft parts features counter-indicative of *smithsonianus* are shown by Lesser Black-backed Gull, and some concluded that hybrid *smithsonianus* x *graellsii/intermedius* was the most likely interpretation. But it is important to note that only two of these features are actually intermediate: mantle tone and the size of the gonys spot. Conversely, the red orbital ring color and yellow leg color are like *graellsii/intermedius* and not at all suggestive of *smithsonianus*. The legs of individuals identified as hybrids in eastern North America almost always show drab pinkish/yellowish tones intermediate between non-breeding individuals of the putative parental species (pers. obs.). Similarly, the Old Field Point bird's yellow iris tone, large overall size, and broad-winged and strong-billed structure are like Herring Gull, not intermediate toward the smaller, slighter Lesser Black-backed Gull. Most importantly, the primary pattern, far from being intermediate between the two proposed parents, is actually beyond many *smithsonianus* in the direction away from Lesser Black-backed Gull. In contrast, known hybrids between Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls have shown intermediate wingtip patterns, including black subterminal bars on primary 5 (absent on the Old Field Point bird), and sometimes even on primary 4 (Malling Olsen and Larsson 2003).

Whereas the appearance of the Old Field Point bird poses multiple obstacles to each of the interpretations considered thus far, it is consistent in every respect with northern European populations of *L. a. argentatus*. Compared to other Herring Gulls, these have darker mantles, large apical spots and restricted black in the primaries, and often show red orbital rings and extensive red on the gonys (Malling Olsen and Larsson 2003). Interestingly, the very features that render the Old Field Point bird most unlike *smithsonianus*—darker mantle, bright yellow legs and bill, red orbital ring, and extensive red on the gonys—co-occur together

within some populations of *argentatus*, for instance near the Baltic Sea and in northernmost Fennoscandia (Malling Olsen and Larsson 2003; Gull Research Organization 2013).

**Conclusions**—Although acknowledging the points above in a general way, some commentators preferred the hybrid Herring x Lesser Black-backed hypothesis, based on three points: that a northern European origin is improbable for a gull on Long Island; that hybrids between Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls are frequent in eastern North America, based on the occurrence of birds appearing intermediate between the two species; and that the present bird's many non-intermediate features are plausible for a hybrid, in view of the sometimes large and unpredictable variability of hybrids in other contexts. We question all three of these points. First, migration and vagrancy from northern Europe to the coastal northeastern United States is well documented among multiple species of gulls and waterfowl, including, ironically, Lesser Black-backed Gull itself; the paucity of records of European Herring Gulls here is surely at least partly a function of the extreme similarity of many adult *L. a. argentatus*, and almost all adult *L. a. argentatus*, to local *smithsonianus* (and also the similarity of immature European Herring Gulls to Lesser Black-backed and Yellow-legged Gulls). Second, the perception that hybrids between Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls are frequent in eastern North America is based on records of intermediate-looking birds whose actual identities are almost always unknown. Ironically, the very few documented examples of hybridization have involved multiple combinations of taxa of both species: *graellsii* x *smithsonianus* at Appledore Island, Maine (Ellis 2014); *graellsii* x *argenteus* in Iceland, Britain, and France; intergrade *graellsii/intermedius* x intergrade *argenteus/argentatus* in Belgium and the Netherlands; and *intermedius* x *argentatus* in Denmark (Malling Olsen and Larsson 2003). The intermediate-looking birds presumed as likely hybrids in North America might easily include birds of disparate ancestries, not only from these pairings, but potentially also hybrids of Lesser Black-backed with Thayer's or Kumlien's Iceland Gulls. And some might actually be vagrant Yellow-legged Gulls, or, as we suspect in this case, vagrant *argentatus* Herring Gulls. Finally, arguing that intermediate-looking birds must be hybrids, and that non-intermediate-looking birds are also probably hybrids, does not advance the problem beyond the truism, “it is never possible to rule out a hybrid with certainty.”

The Old Field Point bird originated somewhere, in a population of *Larus* gulls. Individuals sharing all of its features occur regularly in northern European populations of *L. a. argentatus*, and these ought to be regarded as the most likely origin for this individual.

**Acknowledgments**—We thank Ian Davies, Barbara LaGois and Jay McGowan for permission to reproduce their photos and Doug Futuyma for comments on drafts of this note.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEASON—WINTER 2021-22

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Perhaps more than any other season, weather is really a driver of birds present and birds reported through a winter season. Mild temperatures can allow species to linger that normally flee in advance of the turning calendar pages, while unseasonable cold can drive birds into areas where they can be viewed more easily. High or low water levels or deep snow affects where birds can feed—waterfowl far out of sight on large lakes or sparrows along roadsides picking through exposed seed heads or searching for grit.

Last winter had all of this. Despite New York's sprawling latitudes and diverse habitats, the weather during the winter of 2021-2022 was remarkably uniform. December was four to seven degrees above normal in every Region, January two to eight degrees below average across the board, and was followed by a more or less average February nearly everywhere. Mild December temperatures lured many half-hardy species to delay their southward movements and encouraged waterfowl to remain on open water. Snowstorms in mid-January and February drove up sightings of Snow Buntings and Lapland Longspurs and pushed birds in to feeders and out to roadsides.

Waterfowl remained into December in numbers and variety in most Regions, with lingering ducks mentioned especially in northern and western Regions even into mid-January. Highlights included good numbers of Wood Ducks in Region 1, Green-winged Teal in Regions 3 and 10, and American Wigeon in Region 5. Among the more unusual species, Harlequin Ducks seemed to be especially widespread, with six Regions reporting them, including two different birds each

in Region 6 and 7, where rare. Four Regions reported Tufted Duck, and scoters were pretty widely scattered around. However, in Region 10, where observers have been spoiled in recent years with flocks of Common Eider in the four digits, the high count this season was just 78 birds. Scoter numbers were far below normal there as well.

While the news is filled with stories of declining populations of birds, geese have generally been exempted from that fate. Geese again were well-represented here, both in numbers and in variety. Among the species generally considered rare here, Ross's was recorded from six Regions, Greater White-fronted from seven, and Pink-footed from two, including from five different locations in Region 10. Barnacle Goose seems to have escaped the scrutiny of the annual wild goose chase.

For those down-staters not paying close attention, it is a bit surprising that there are parts of the state where Mute Swans are seldom encountered. Region 7 had its first since 2008, this one near Essex Ferry. Trumpeter Swans were recorded from five Regions, with a max of 42 at Wilson Hill WMA in Region 6. I find it to be an interesting dichotomy that while the expansion of Mute Swan—originating from escapes over 100 years ago—is lamented, the expansion of Trumpeter Swans—originating from escapes 30 years ago—is welcomed. Neither are native breeders in New York.

Among the “duckaloids”, an impressive count of 108 Horned Grebes at Floyd Bennett Field in Region 10 was the exception—most other reports were of disappointingly low numbers. Red-necked Grebes were well represented at the opposite end of the state, in Region 2 at Hamlin Beach SP, with a high count of 826. An Eared Grebe there on 26 December and another on Seneca Lake in Region 3 on 13 February were good finds, and the only ones reported state-wide. Great Cormorants were nice rarities at Buffalo in Region 1 and on the Rochester CBC in Region 2. They also made a very impressive showing in Region 9, with a high count of 15 at Fleischmann's Pier in Westchester County. A Pacific Loon was photographed in Oakdale, Suffolk County in Region 10.

Although the Razorbills flight in Region 10 was generally unimpressive, they were recorded from four other Regions around the state. These were mostly birds lingering from the widespread fall incursion, but impressive sights, nonetheless. Other than that, only Region 10 recorded alcids, with Dovekie and Thick-billed Murre being easier to find than usual.

Impressive counts of Bonaparte's Gulls in Region 1 included several tallies of over 10,000 birds. Associating with these huge flocks were double digit numbers of Little Gulls, with a max of 19 seen on the Niagara River from the Ontario side. Region 1 hosted a rare-in-winter Laughing Gull, while a Franklin's in Region 9 was far from its normal winter range. Iceland, Glaucous, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were widespread and well-represented. Getting down to the “really good gulls”, Slaty-backed was, amazingly, recorded from three Regions—including a “celebrity” bird that showed itself to many at the reservoir in Central Park, Region 10. The others were in Region 5 and, less surprisingly, in Region 1

at Niagara Falls. A bird found on the north shore of Long Island by Patrice Domeischel seemed to check all the boxes for a European Herring Gull. The bird was an adult, well seen and photographed, and was present for weeks.

Shorebird reports were probably about normal overall, with mild December conditions encouraging Killdeer to remain into the winter period in at least eight Regions. Not surprisingly, Region 10 had a nice variety of shorebird species, including Least and Western Sandpipers, Piping Plover, and Short-billed Dowitcher. Easily the highlight, though, was the Northern Lapwing found by Mike Vedder on 18 December. Seen by many that day, it could not be relocated the following day for inclusion on the Captree CBC. Elsewhere in the state, Regions 2 and 3 reported Red Phalarope, and a Spotted Sandpiper was found at Dorchester Park in Region 4.

Sandhill Cranes continue to establish themselves as part of the New York avifauna scene, with reports from five Regions. Regions 2 and 3 recorded high counts of 300-400 birds. Checking on other birds with long legs, Great Blue Herons showed their normally widespread distribution, while Regions 1 and 2 recorded late lingering Great Egrets. Tricolored and Green Herons in Region 10 were also good finds.

Somewhat surprisingly, no hummingbirds were reported from any locations this winter. Taking a serious jump up in size, nine Regions reported Golden Eagles. Surely this is a sign of a real increase in this species' population. Not long ago Golden Eagle could only be found at a few very specific sites. One at Oceanside in Region 10 was most surprising but even there the species is becoming almost annual in occurrence.

Black Vulture now occurs routinely in small numbers throughout the state in the winter months. They were reported from eight Regions this winter. There was no discernable flight of Northern Goshawk, but they were recorded from seven Regions. Northern Harrier presented a mixed bag, with high counts noted in several Regions while in Region 6 Jeff Bolsinger considered them to be "especially down, with maximum counts of no more than three on Point Peninsula and Cape Vincent, where as many as 22 were seen daily last winter." A similar situation was noted for Rough-legged Hawk, with widespread reports and good counts in several areas, but again lower than expected tallies in Region 6. Bob Spahn made the following comment about using eBird reports of Rough-legged as a guide to abundance. "This year, a few individuals hung out in the general Braddock Bay area much of the season generating many reports for the few birds." I'd guess that this statement could be extrapolated to any open-ground, charismatic raptor. A Broad-winged Hawk at Prospect Park in Brooklyn was a rare find for any location in North America north of southern Florida.

Short-eared Owl is another species that could be included in the above eBird comment, but there did actually seem to be decent numbers recorded, with single site counts peaking at 10 birds at Nations Road in Region 2. David Wheeler in Region 5 talks about the possibility of an industrial park impacting a Short-eared Owl location there. The planned Micron plant has received positive national news

coverage, but hopefully the negative effects it would have on the local habitat can be mitigated? Snowy Owls put on a bit of an incursion, with reports from every Region. Again, Regional editors were diligent about trying to reconcile numbers of eBird reports to numbers of individuals present. Lance Verderame in Region 4 describes a series of maladies endured by one Snowy, while another in Newburgh in Region 9 apparently worked out a method to conserve migration energy by riding the ferry. A Long-eared Owl in Region 7 represented the first winter record in over 20 years.

While there was no widespread irruption of winter finches, the Adirondacks in Region 7 experienced a bonanza of both Red and White-winged Crossbills and Pine Siskins, all in notable numbers, and with courtship behavior noted. See the Notes and Observations piece above, where Matt Young describes 2022 as “the best overall crossbill year” in his 20+ years of studying them in the state, and “the second best year for white-wings” that he’s seen....”. Regions 1 and 4 also got a taste of the Red Crossbill irruption, with some indication of courtship behavior in both. Otherwise, the expected species were scattered around in low numbers. Bohemian Waxwings and Pine Grosbeaks were each reported from only two Regions.

As mentioned up top, there were lots of “half-hardy” species lingering at least into December. “Traditional” half-hardies include species like Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Gray Catbird. All of these and many more were widespread and reported in good numbers. Another, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, was reported from eight Regions and was specifically called out as occurring in high numbers in several of those. American Pipit—not normally grouped as a half hardy—was also widespread and present in good numbers. Multiples were found in Regions 1 and 2, where considered rare, and in Region 8 its occurrence through all three months was termed “unprecedented”. A flock in Region 10 of 100 birds was exceptional.

Beyond the normal half-hardies, there were many records of real surprises among the late lingering species. A few of the highlights were a Summer Tanager at a feeder in Region 1, a Black-throated Green Warbler in Region 6, Baltimore Oriole and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in Region 7, Nashville and Cape May Warblers in Region 8, Yellow and Tennessee Warblers and an Indigo Bunting in Region 9, and Veery, Wood Thrush and 15 species of warblers in Region 10.

And then there are those species whose normal ranges do not include New York State—perhaps the spiciest of the rarities. Among those not already mentioned, highlights include the Region 2 Painted Bunting, in this case a male that spent a few days at a feeder and was enjoyed by many. Region 9 hosted several out-of-range rarities, including Ash-throated Flycatcher, Mountain Bluebird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, and two LeConte’s Sparrows. In Region 10, highlights included two Western Tanagers in Manhattan, a Gray Kingbird on Staten Island, and Ash-throated Flycatcher and Western Kingbirds. A Henslow’s Sparrow is a great find anytime in Region 10, and one in Brooklyn was good winter record.

In a season with so many rarities, selecting one as Bird of the Season is not an easy or clear-cut decision. But, for its status as a continent-wide rarity and the fact that it cooperated, albeit for only one day, I'd have to go with the Northern Lapwing in Region 10. I can only imagine the shock of finding that bird at a routine birding site and the relief of hearing that it was later relocated a short distance away!

So that wraps up an exciting winter season. I look forward to seeing what you all turn up next time around.

Much of the data in the Regional reports is sourced from eBird:  
eBird Basic Dataset. Version: EBD\_relFeb-2022. Cornell Lab of Ornithology,  
Ithaca, New York. Feb 2022.



## **REGION 1—NIAGARA FRONTIER**

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The winter season started off unseasonably warm in December, followed by above average cold and snow in January, and finishing off in February with a thaw that melted most of the accumulated snowpack. December 2021 was exceptionally mild, ranking as the second warmest on record. The mean temperature at the Buffalo weather station was 38.2° F, a staggering 6.8° above normal. Precipitation was low, with 2.46" of precipitation, 1.29" below average. Snowfall was exceptionally low with a total of 5.7" falling, 19.6" below normal. January's weather made up for the mild December, consisting of cold, snowy weather that tested the limits of residents' snow blowers and shoveling skills. The mean temperature was 21.9°, 3.6° below average. Precipitation was 3.59", 0.24" above average and a total snowfall of 52.1" was an impressive 25.4" above normal. Snowy weather continued in the first half of February, but the second half brought the first signs of spring and thawing out from winter's grip. The average temperature was 28.5°, 2.1° above normal. Precipitation was 4.57", 2.08" above average and snowfall totaled 23.1", 5.0" above normal. The rains, combined with melting snow, led to flooded conditions across much of the Region.

The warm December was likely responsible for some waterfowl lingering longer and a few more overwintering than usual. A few Cackling Geese were found in the Canada Goose flocks around Buffalo Harbor and the Niagara River

beyond December, while it was likely the most reports of Wood Duck beyond December ever. Diving ducks were found in decent numbers along the Niagara River, and as ice crept in on Lake Erie during the cold January and first half of February, reports of tens of thousands ducks were made at Buffalo Harbor. A maximum count of 13 Greater White-fronted Geese was made among a few reports in December, but there were no reports of February arrivals like in most recent years. Trumpeter Swans were reported from Iroquois NWR into late December, while Tim Lenz had (and heard) a group of five on Lake Ontario at Fort Niagara SP on 21 February, where sightings of this species have been rare. Hundreds of Tundra Swans wintered on the Niagara River, with some on Chautauqua Lake as well. A single group of 103 Ring-necked Ducks was a good number at Buckhorn Island SP during the Winter Waterfowl Count. A female **Tufted Duck** found by Josh Ketry at Buffalo Harbor on 26 December was sighted there in the following two days but not beyond. There were a few reports of King Eider from Fort Niagara SP, while one male Harlequin Duck was seen often above Niagara Falls through 24 December but no reports were made beyond that from this regular wintering location. Northward migrant dabblers, geese, and Tundra Swans started to return in February with the first likely migrants in the second and third weeks.

The **Razorbill** excitement continued from the fall season with up to four at a time (!) sighted on Lake Ontario off Fort Niagara SP through December until late January.

A few double digit counts of Sandhill Cranes were made in the vicinity of Iroquois NWR in December, while northbound migrants in the Region were first noted on 21 February. Shorebirds are sparse during the winter season, with just four species reported. Killdeer and Wilson's Snipe were reported in December, while the first Killdeer and American Woodcock arrivals were noted in February. The shorebird highlight was clearly a Purple Sandpiper observed from Niagara Falls SP on 20 and 22 January.

Gull enthusiasts were happy with the numbers of both large and small gulls on the Niagara River this winter, which both seemed to peak in late December and early January. There were several Bonaparte's Gull counts of greater than 10,000 from the mouth of the Niagara River as they made their afternoon exodus to Lake Ontario. Some double digit counts including a maximum of 19 Little Gulls were made during these "fly-past" sessions as well. A few Black-legged Kittiwake reports were made along the Niagara River earlier in the winter, while one photographed by Gale VerHague at Dunkirk Harbor on 11-12 February was more surprising based on date and location. Juvenile Sabine's Gull reports included one at Niagara Falls on 1 December and presumably another found on 14 December at Unity Island by Sakura Paterniti that many observed in the vicinity through 22 December. A Laughing Gull found by Harper Cisely and Don Dixon at Erie Basin Marina in Buffalo in late December stayed for more than ten days at that location. An adult **Slaty-backed Gull** was found at Niagara Falls SP by Josh Ketry on 5 January and again on 16 January independently by Joel Strong

and Rob Sielaff. This Asian species may be losing its “Mega”-rare status locally with sightings in four of the last six winter seasons at Niagara Falls, while it remains a difficult ID challenge, and each winter some birders are too quick to make the call on similar looking ‘odd’ large gulls.

On 2 February at Erie Basin Marina in Buffalo, Shelley Seidman photographed a large cormorant that she felt was unusual. Sure enough, it was an immature **Great Cormorant**, only the third for the Region. Three days later it was refound in the same location and then down river in Tonawanda. It became a regular in Tonawanda, often among a wintering group of Double-crested Cormorants, near Aqua Lane Park, Motor Island WMA, and as viewed from Beaver Island SP. The Great Cormorant was present through the rest of the winter and into early April.

Great Blue Heron and Black-crowned Night-Heron lingered into the end of December and a late Great Egret was seen throughout most of January at or near Beaver Island SP.

Black Vultures were seen at the usual Lewiston location throughout the winter with a high count of eight for the season. Turkey Vultures were more widespread compared to other winter seasons with a high count of 43 on 1 December at the Lewiston roost and sightings within several different counties. Allegany County produced the only winter Golden Eagle sightings with one on 26 December by Matt Nusstein and Claudia Rosen and another on 12 February by Brad Carlson, possibly representing the same bird. Northern Harriers made a nice showing at John White WMA with a count of eight on 12 and 17 December. Bald Eagles were reported throughout the winter season with a high count of seven from the Niagara River in Tonawanda on 15 February. Rough-legged Hawks were also reported throughout the season, with an impressive 22 reports in January. Up to three were regularly seen hunting a field in Porter this winter.

There were no reports of Northern Saw-whet Owls and only one report of Long-eared Owl during the winter season. However, the Long-eared Owl sighting included an impressive tally of five individuals found by Willie D’Anna and Betsy Potter in Yates. Snowy and Short-eared Owl reports were more prevalent. Buffalo Harbor produced a high count of four Snowy Owls with numerous other reports there throughout December and January. Short-eared Owls were reported throughout the winter season from several, mostly regular locations as either singles or pairs of birds.

Red-headed Woodpeckers were sparse, with winter reports from only two locations. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, on the other hand, continue to show a trend of increased winter frequency, with several reports during the season, including 22 reports in January alone.

Eastern Phoebe is another species that we are seeing leaving later in the winter and arriving early in the spring. This winter season had two December reports and the last bird reported on 16 January from Beaver Island SP, which represents only the third January record of this species for the Region. Several

Northern Shrikes were seen throughout the Region with 14 December, eight January, and five February reports.

Fish Crows have become a more regular sighting in Buffalo over the last few years and a maximum count of 16 was tallied there on 22 December as well as several smaller counts in January and February elsewhere in Buffalo. Josh Ketry also reported one mixed in a flock of 140 American Crows in Olean on 6 February, representing a sighting well away from their better-known Buffalo and Niagara Falls locations.

Several Horned Lark flocks numbering in the 100s were reported throughout the Region with a maximum count of 275 in Yates on 21 January. Lapland Longspur reports were sparse, most of which came from the Lake Ontario plain, with a maximum count of seven in Yates on 22 January. Snow Bunting flocks were smaller compared to last winter with a maximum count of 325 in Alexander on 15 February.

Flocks of up to 100 Cedar Waxwings remained towards the end of December, but unfortunately no Bohemian Waxwings were reported. A handful of Gray Catbirds and Hermit Thrushes, both “half hardy” species, were reported throughout the winter season. Even more prevalent were Yellow-rumped Warblers with up to 14 tallied on 8 January at Buckhorn Island SP, an annual wintering location. An American Pipit was reported in late January to early February at Buffalo Harbor, representing a rare winter sighting, but one that is slowly becoming more frequent in recent years.

In the winter finch arena there were no Evening or Pine Grosbeak reports, but the Region did enjoy sightings of the other sought after finches. A smattering of small flocks of Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins were reported throughout the Region with maxima of 35 and 12, respectively. Red Crossbill reports came from the Southern Tier conifer plantations in Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties, including some singing and early breeding behavior. The only White-winged Crossbill sighting was from Krull CP on 9 December by Eric Schill.

Several sparrow species had good winter showings compared to years past. Among them, were reports of seven Field Sparrows, four Fox Sparrows, and numerous small flocks of White-crowned Sparrows. Two January reports of Savannah Sparrow suggest overwintering individuals, an increasingly common occurrence. There were also numerous Eastern Towhee reports throughout the winter season, mostly from southern counties within the Region.

Blackbirds were well-represented in the winter season with some lingering throughout the season and the first migrants appearing towards mid- to late February. Five Eastern Meadowlarks on 1 December and three on 8 and 22 January was a good winter showing. Red-winged Blackbirds and a few Common Grackles were reported throughout the winter, while the only reports of Rusty Blackbirds came from spring arrivals at the end of February.

Homeowners Chris and John Hoisington hosted a rare **Summer Tanager** at their feeders in Springville from 1 December to 7 January. This record represents the first of any tanager species past mid-November for the Region.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**ACNC** – Audubon Community Nature Center, Jamestown, CHAU; **AISP** – Allegany SP, CATT; **AmSP** – Amherst SP, ERIE; **BeSP** – Beaver I SP, ERIE; **BuFH** – Buffalo Harbor, ERIE; **BuSP** – Buckhorn I SP, ERIE; **BWWTP** – Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, GENE; **ChauL** – Chautauqua L, CHAU; **CSWMA** – Conewango Swamp WMA, CATT; **DH** – Dunkirk Harbor, CHAU; **DHSP** – Devil's Hole SP, NIAG; **EvSP** – Evangola SP, ERIE; **FNSP** – Fort Niagara SP, NIAG; **GHSP** – Golden Hill SP, NIAG; **INWR** – Iroquois NWR, GENE/ORLE; **JWWMA** – John White WMA GENE; **Krull CP** – Krull CP, NIAG; **LBSP** – Lakeside Beach SP, ORLE; **NF** – Niagara Falls, NIAG; **NFSP** – Niagara Falls SP, NIAG; **NNP** – Niagara Power Project on Niagara R, NIAG; **NR** – Niagara R; **OOWMA** – Oak Orchard WMA, GENE/ORLE; **Tifft NP** – Tifft Nature Pres, ERIE; **WoBSP** – Woodlawn Beach SP, ERIE; **WTSP** – Wilson-Tuscarora SP, NIAG.

**Snow Goose:** four Dec reports, 1 each; Sheridan CHAU 1 Jan, 6 Feb.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 7 INWR 5-11 Dec; max 13 Olcott NIAG 18 Dec. 5, 8 Yates ORLE 23, 28 Dec.

**Cackling Goose:** 7, 2, 1 BuFH 22 Dec, 21 Jan, 24 Feb; max 9 Batavia GENE 26 Dec; 5 BeSP 16 Jan; Grand I ERIE 26 Feb; apparent that some wintered in Reg.

**Mute Swan:** max 12 Waterport ORLE 4 Dec; Cassadaga CHAU 5 Dec; 4, 2 FNSP 1 Jan, 5 Feb; 2 BeSP 13 Jan; NFSP 28 Jan; East Aurora ERIE 18 Feb; 3 BuSP 18 Feb; 6 Yates ORLE 21 Feb.

**Trumpeter Swan:** 3 INWR 26 Dec; Lewiston NIAG 27 Dec; max 5 FNSP 21 Feb (TL).

**Tundra Swan:** 57 Jamestown ChauL 12 Dec; 191 NF 24 Dec; max 346 BeSP 7 Jan; 120 Long Pt SP ChauL 8 Jan; 155 Grand I NR 1 Feb; 50 Celoron ChauL 21 Feb.

**Wood Duck:** 7 Buffalo ERIE 5 Dec; Knox Farm SP ERIE 26 Dec; 2 AISP 31 Dec; NFSP 2, 23 Jan; BeSP 12 Jan; 2 Grand I NR

16 Jan; 2 Irving ERIE 16 Jan; Lime L CATT 23 Jan; Tonawanda NR ERIE 5 Feb; Silver Creek CHAU 6 Feb; arr FLC 24 Feb; 7 Sheridan CHAU 25 Feb; more winter reports than usual.

**Northern Shoveler:** max 65 BWWTP 27 Dec; 4 Buffalo ERIE 29 Dec, 1 Jan; BeSP 9 Jan; Buffalo NR 9, 18 Jan; arr 2 Olcott NIAG 22 Feb.

**Gadwall:** max 90 Tifft NP 8 Dec; 50 Lakewood ChauL 9 Dec; 26 BeSP 5 Jan; 50, 6 Celoron ChauL 6 Jan, 2 Feb; 4 BuFH 6 Feb; 20 NFSP 11 Feb; arr 10 DH 12 Feb.

**American Wigeon:** 30, 10 Lakewood ChauL 9 Dec, 6 Jan; max, arr 45 DH 12 Feb; 6 BuSP 21 Feb.

**Mallard:** max 379 Celoron Chau 16 Jan.

**American Black Duck:** 25 BWWTP 21 Dec; 25 Buffalo NR 10 Jan; max 27 Grand I NR 16 Jan; 12 NFSP 5 Feb; 20 DH 12 Feb.

**Northern Pintail:** max 51 Porter NIAG 27 Dec (MM); 35 ACNC 31 Dec; 10 N Collins ERIE 1 Jan; four other Jan reports; Tonawanda NR ERIE 5 Feb; Wellsville

ALLE 7 Feb; arr 7 Sheridan CHAU 22 Feb; 6 DH 24 Feb.

**Green-winged Teal:** N Collins ERIE 27 Dec, 13 Jan; NFSP 2 Jan; max 15 Cuba L ALLE 5 Jan; 2 Celoron ChauL 16 Jan; arr 2 DH 12 Feb; Leon CATT 24 Feb; Tonawanda NR ERIE 26 Feb.

**Canvasback:** 950 NF NR 27 Dec; max 3000 BeSP 6 Feb (MM).

**Redhead:** 250 NF NR 5 Dec; 400 Long Pt SP CHAU 8 Jan; max 1700 BufH 8 Jan; 1000 BeSP 16 Jan; 1000 BufH 5 Feb; 150 DH 12 Feb; 125 FNSP 12 Feb.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 40 LESP 11 Dec; 65 Buffalo NR 18 Dec; 67 Tifft NP 28 Dec; 40, 11 Celoron ChauL 8 Jan, 6 Feb; max 103 BuSP 16 Jan (MM); arr 12 DH 22 Feb.

**TUFTED DUCK (1):** BufH 26-28 Dec (JK, mob, ph!); possibly same bird as recent years.

**Greater Scaup:** 430 Buffalo NR 21 Dec; 1000 NF NR 23 Dec; 125 DH 5 Jan; max 4500, 4000 BufH 13 Jan, 6 Feb; 1030 BeSP 16 Jan; 175 FNSP 26 Feb.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 100 Buffalo NR 24 Dec; BWWTP 24 Dec; 34 DH 5 Jan; 50, 20 BufH 29 Dec, 5 Feb; 25 BeSP 7 Feb.

**King Eider:** 1, 1, 1 FNSP 1, 31 Jan, 26 Feb (KR, RT, WD).

**Harlequin Duck:** NFSP 1-24 Dec (mob, usual winter location); did not overwinter.

**Surf Scoter:** DH 1 Dec; max 5 FNSP 23 Dec; EvSP 30 Dec; Sturgeon Pt ERIE 16 Jan; BufH 6 Feb.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 200, 500 FNSP 20 Dec, 26 Feb.

**Black Scoter:** DH 1 Dec; 5 FNSP 16 Dec; max 6, 1 EvSP 24 Dec, 3 Jan; 2 BufH 28 Dec; Buffalo NR 1 Feb.

**Long-tailed Duck:** 600 Buffalo NR ERIE 15 Dec; max 3440 FNSP 6 Feb; 900 Lewiston NR.

**Bufflehead:** max 1500 Buffalo NR 18 Dec.

**Common Goldeneye:** 325, 336 EvSP 11 Dec, 13 Jan; max 750 Buffalo NR 18 Dec; 250 NF 9 Jan; 26 Olean CATT 6 Feb; max 500 BufH 7 Feb; 260 BuSP 7 Feb; 110 FNSP 24 Feb.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 200 Chautauqua ChauL 7 Dec; 73, 18 BeSP 14 Jan, 26 Feb; 11 DH 12 Feb; 19 Tonawanda NR ERIE 27 Feb.

**Common Merganser:** 132 Cuba L ALLE 7 Dec; 200 NF NR 31 Dec; 150, 215 DH 13 Jan, 11 Feb; max 1000, 500 Buffalo NR 31 Jan, 7 Feb; 225 NFSP 6 Feb.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 400 WoBSP 5 Dec; 250 Sturgeon Pt ERIE 3 Jan; 250 FNSP 31 Jan; 500 BufH 5 Feb; max 560 Tonawanda NR 28 Feb.

**Ruddy Duck:** max 29 North Collins ERIE 4 Dec; 21 BWWTP 5 Dec; 2 Dayton CATT 13 Dec; BuSP 6 Jan; 4, 2 DH 8 Jan, 12 Feb; BufH 8 Jan; Jamestown CHAU 26 Jan; Barcelona CHAU 11 Feb.

**Wild Turkey:** max 42 Akron ERIE 22 Jan.

**Ruffed Grouse:** 7 reports.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 3 Mayville ChauL 7 Dec; last 1, 2 DH 3, 5 Jan.

**Horned Grebe:** 14 EvSP 5 Dec; max 15 GHSP 8 Dec; 2 DH 1 Jan; Olcott NIAG 4 Jan; Whirlpool SP NIAG 5 Jan; FNSP 6, 13 Jan; GHSP 7 Feb.

**Red-necked Grebe:** 2, 1 FNSP 4 Dec, 8 Jan; 3 GHSP 10 Dec; 2 LBSP 10 Dec; 3 Olcott NIAG 18 Dec; 2 PB 28 Dec; few reports.

**American Coot:** max 100 Lakewood ChauL 22 Dec; 5 DH 5 Jan; 2 Long Pt SP ChauL 8 Jan; 3 N Collins ERIE 13 Jan; 2 BuSP 16 Jan; 2 Barcelona CHAU 11, 21 Feb.

**Sandhill Crane:** max 17 INWR 2 Dec (PH); 12 JWWMA 12 Dec (BH); arr 4 Fredonia CHAU 21 Feb; 4 Sinclairville CHAU 24 Feb; 2 Oakfield GENE 28 Feb.

**Killdeer:** last AmSP 16 Dec; arr Portland CHAU 22 Feb.

**Purple Sandpiper:** NFSP 20, 22 Jan (PY, KR); only reports.

**American Woodcock:** arr Forestville CHAU 24 Feb, only report.

**Wilson's Snipe:** last Ischua CATT 3, 11 Dec; only reports.

**RAZORBILL:** 1-4 FNSP 1 Dec – 30 Jan (mob, ph!); lingering birds from fall invasion.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** Buffalo NR 11 Dec (JK, mob); FNSP 24, 30 Dec (AG, RG, WD); NF 27 Dec (JF, mob); DH 11, 12 Feb (GV, BR), irregular in Feb.

**Sabine's Gull:** FNSP 1 Dec (WD, BP); Buffalo NR 14-22 Dec (SP, mob, ph!); only reports.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 11840, 8910 FNSP 4, 24 Dec (BS); max 13800 NR near L Ontario as viewed from Ontario 1 Jan (KB); 400 Unity I NR 19 Jan.

**Little Gull:** Barcelona CHAU 7 Dec; 12, 11 FNSP 24, 30 Dec (AG, RG, WD); max 19 NR near L Ontario as viewed from Ontario 1 Jan (KB).

**LAUGHING GULL (R1):** BufH 29 Dec – 9 Jan (HC & DD, mob); rare.

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 2000 Mayville ChauL 12 Dec.

**Herring Gull:** max 1200 FNSP 6 Jan.

**Iceland Gull:** max 7, 8, 7 DHSP 5 Dec, 8 Jan, 6 Feb; 3, 5, 6 FNSP 5 Dec, 1 Jan, 12 Feb; 2 WoBSP 15 Dec; Tonawanda NR ERIE 27 Dec; 6 NPP 1 Jan; Chaffee ERIE 27 Jan, 9 Feb; 2 DH 11 Feb, 2 Buffalo NR 21 Feb.

**"THAYER'S" ICELAND GULL (R1):** FNSP 3 Dec; DHSP 30 Dec; FNSP 23 Jan; only documented reports.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 7 WoBSP 1 Dec; max 13, 11, 6 FNSP 24 Dec, 12 Jan, Feb 12; 3 Sheridan CHAU 1 Jan (GV); 2 BufH 6 Feb; DH 11 Feb.

**SLATY-BACKED GULL:** FNSP 5, 16 Jan (JK, JS, RS), present in four of the last six winters.

**Glaucous Gull:** 2, 3 FNSP 4 Dec, 8, 12 Jan; max 1, 1, 4 DH 6 Dec, 1 Jan, 11 Feb; 1, 1 WoBSP 8 Dec, 7 Jan; Cherry Creek CHAU 12 Dec (JM); 1, 2 BufH 13 Jan, 23 Feb; 2 Chaffee ERIE 27 Jan (RS); 2 Buffalo NR 5 Feb; 2 FNSP 21 Feb; BeSP 23 Feb.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** 30, 24 WoBSP 15, 23 Dec; max 33 FNSP 16 Jan.

**Red-throated Loon:** max 13 FNSP 8 Dec; 1-3 FNSP 1-13 Jan; BufH 30 Jan; only reports beyond Dec.

**Common Loon:** max 5 FNSP 17 Dec; few reports beyond Dec.

**GREAT CORMORANT (R1):** Buffalo NR 2, 5 Feb (SS, mob, ph!); Tonawanda NR 5-28 Feb (mob, ph!); same bird; very rare; third Reg rec.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 50 Fredonia CHAU 2 Dec.

**Great Blue Heron:** 21, max 28 Tonawanda NR ERIE 28 Dec, 21 Feb.

**Great Egret:** Tonawanda NR ERIE 28, 29 Dec; BeSP 4-20 Jan (mob), likely same bird, late.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** last Buffalo ERIE 5, 29 Dec.

**Black Vulture:** 5, 8, 4 Lewiston NIAG 5 Dec, 1 Jan, 1 Feb; usual location.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 43 Lewiston NIAG 1 Dec; 3 Albion ORLE 31 Dec; 16 Dec reports of singles; 2, 1 Tonawanda NR ERIE 4, 13 Jan; Harmony CHAU 30 Jan; Holland ERIE 30 Jan; more widespread in winter than usual; arr Buffalo ERIE, Clarence ERIE 12 Feb.

**Golden Eagle:** Swain ALLE 26 Dec (MN, CIR); Swain ALLE 12 Feb (BC); possibly same bird.

**Northern Harrier:** max 8 JWWMA 12, 17 Dec (BH).

**Bald Eagle:** 6 Dayton CATT 3 Dec; 6 Buffalo NR 30 Jan; max 7 Tonawanda NR ERIE 15 Feb.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 5 reports 1-2 each 24-31 Dec; 5 reports Jan; 5 reports 1 each 6-24 Feb.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 2 Wilson NIAG 5 Dec; max 3 Porter NIAG 16 Dec; reported from 22 locations in Jan; 6 reports 1 each Feb.

**Snowy Owl:** max 4, 3, 1 BufH 24 Dec, 1 Jan, 24 Feb; six Dec reports 1-2 each; 3, 1 NF Airport NIAG 1 Jan, 2 Feb; Olcott NIAG 3 Jan; NFSP 5 Jan, 5 Feb; Alden ERIE 13 Jan; Porter NIAG 29 Jan.

**Long-eared Owl:** 5 Yates ORLE 13 Jan (WD, BP); only report.

**Short-eared Owl:** Jamestown CHAU 4 Dec; Shelby ORLE 7 Dec; Newfane NIAG 13 Dec; Buffalo NR ERIE 17 Dec; Fillmore ALLE 3 Jan; 2, 1 Conewango CATT 11 Jan,

6 Feb; Gasport ORLE 18 Jan; 2 Newstead ERIE 21 Jan; 2, 2 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 29 Jan, 6 Feb; 2 Lockport NIAG 7 Feb, Forestville CHAU 9 Feb; mostly regular locations.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** LBSP 12 Dec - 16 Jan; EvSP 24 Dec; only reports.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** six Dec, 22 Jan, and five Feb reports 1 each; increasing winter reports.

**Eastern Phoebe:** BuSP 1 Dec; Buffalo NR ERIE 18 Dec; last BeSP 13, 16 Jan (BR, SB).

**Northern Shrike:** 14 Dec, eight Jan, five Feb reports.

**Fish Crow:** max 16 Buffalo ERIE 22 Dec (JP), plus several reports of 1-3 elsewhere in Buffalo in Jan, early Feb; 2 Depew ERIE 6 Jan (KC); Olean CATT 6 Feb (JK).

**Common Raven:** 9 Chaffee ERIE 20 Dec; max 12 Bolivar ALLE 13 Jan.

**Horned Lark:** 20 Albion ORLE 8 Dec; max 275 Yates ORLE 21 Jan; 155 Wilson NIAG 21 Jan; 144, 210, 157 Bethany GENE 22 Jan, 5, 26 Feb; 120 Somerset NIAG 8 Feb.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** BuSP 1 Dec; BeSP 11 Dec; Sherman CHAU 26 Dec; only reports.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 9 Gerry CHAU 24 Feb.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** no reports.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 100 Boston ERIE 26 Dec; max 100 FNSP 27 Dec.

**House Wren:** TBNP 16 Dec, 4 Jan (SB), late.

**Gray Catbird:** four Dec reports 1-2 each; three Jan reports; BeSP 6, 26 Feb.

**Brown Thrasher:** Forestville CHAU 1 Dec; Cheektowaga ERIE 5 Dec; only reports.

**Northern Mockingbird:** max 8 S Buffalo ERIE 5 Dec, high count.

**Eastern Bluebird:** 12 Dunkirk CHAU 16 Dec; max 18 BWWT 21 Dec; 14 Ransomville NIAG 29 Dec; 13 Little Valley CATT 30 Dec; 11 Knox Farm SP ERIE 3 Jan.

**Hermit Thrush:** five Dec, three Jan, five Feb reports 1-2 each; good showing.

**American Robin:** max 110 NFSP 25 Jan; spring migrant arrive late Feb.

**American Pipit:** BufH 25 Jan (NJ), 2, 5 Feb (SS, ChR), rare but increasing in winter.

**Evening Grosbeak:** no reports.

**Pine Grosbeak:** no reports.

**House Finch:** max 45 Orangeville WYOM 6 Feb.

**Purple Finch:** max 18 Gerry CHAU 30 Jan.

**Common Redpoll:** WTSP 1 Dec; 13 Krull CP 18 Dec; 3 Medina ORLE 28 Dec; 2 Stockton CHAU 29 Dec; 9 Unity I NR 1 Jan; 15 OOWMA 1 Jan; max 35 BeSP 13 Jan; 30 Porter NIAG 20 Jan; 23 Lyndonville NIAG 29 Jan; Buffalo ERIE 4 Feb; Amherst ERIE 21 Feb; 10 Wilson NIAG 22 Feb.

**Red Crossbill:** 2 West Almond CATT 5 Dec; 6 Krull CP 26 Dec; 6, 4, 1 Birdsall ALLE 26 Dec, 1, 21 Feb (CHI; J & KG); max 3-8 Ashford CATT 21-27 Feb (JK, mob); 1-3 Gerry CHAU 24-28 Feb (AL, GV); 2 Cherry Creek CHAU 28 Feb (AL); good showing mostly in Southern Tier forests.

**White-winged Crossbill:** 7 Krull CP 9 Dec (ES); only report.

**Pine Siskin:** 2 Aurora ERIE 8 Dec; INWR 14 Dec; 5 Krull CP 17 Dec; 12 Andover ALLE 19 Dec; 8, 11 Franklinville CATT 11 Jan, 19 Feb; 4 Forestville CHAU 15 Jan; 3 Orangeville WYOM 5 Feb; 4 Whitesville ALLE 18 Feb; 5 Rushford ALLE 19 Feb; low numbers.

**American Goldfinch:** max 135 Stockton CHAU 29 Dec; 110 Orchard Park ERIE 25 Feb.

**Lapland Longspur:** 3 Porter NIAG 22 Jan; max 7 Yates ORLE 22 Jan; Bethany GENE 5 Feb; 6 Wilson NIAG 6 Feb; 5 Somerset NIAG 8 Feb; Leon CATT 13 Feb.

**Snow Bunting:** 100 Newfane NIAG 18 Dec; 60, 185 Bethany GENE 22 Jan, 7 Feb;

200 Yates ORLE 22 Jan; 55 Freedom CATT, 56 Delevan CATT 23 Jan; 100 Porter NIAG 26 Jan; 50 Wilson NIAG 6 Feb; 75 Shelby ORLE 7 Feb; max 325 Alexander GENE 15 Feb.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Ridgeway ORLE 28 Dec (GL); Somerset NIAG 4, 20 Feb (JS); only reports.

**Field Sparrow:** WoBSP 9, 30 Dec, 2 Jan; RWNP 10 Dec; EvSP 14 Dec; Pomfret CHAU 19 Jan; ACNC 16 Feb; good showing.

**Fox Sparrow:** Gerry CHAU 19 Dec; Eden ERIE 22 Dec; WTSP 31 Dec; Wilson NIAG 27 Jan; only reports.

**American Tree Sparrow:** max 102 Porter NIAG 18 Jan.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 6 Niagara Falls NIAG 21 Dec; Buffalo ERIE 23 Dec; 3 DH 26 Dec; 5 Collins ERIE 13 Jan; 5 Portland CHAU 16 Jan; max 14 Wilson NIAG 17 Jan (JS); 8 Dunkirk Airport CHAU 20 Jan; 5 Porter NIAG 28 Jan; 7 Fredonia CHAU 12 Feb.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 29 Shelby ORLE 23 Jan.

**Savannah Sparrow:** Porter NIAG 18 Jan; 3 Pomfret CHAU 19 Jan (TM); increasing in winter.

**Swamp Sparrow:** reported from five locations beyond Dec.

**Eastern Towhee:** Ashford CATT 1, 5 Dec, 2, 27 Jan, 1 Feb; Dunkirk Airport CHAU 8 Jan; Ripley CHAU 11 Jan; Shelby ORLE 20 Jan; Pomfret CHAU 23 Jan; Holland ERIE

30 Jan, 13 Feb; Hanover CHAU 2 Feb; Wales ERIE 15 Feb; Wellsville ALLE 20 Feb.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** max 5 Concord ERIE 1 Dec; 3 Newstead ERIE 8, 22 Jan; good showing.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** 8, 14 Elma ERIE 8 Dec, 28 Jan; 11 BuSP 11 Dec; 22 Buffalo ERIE 2 Jan; 30 Porter NIAG 27 Jan; 6 Tifft NP 1 Feb; 2 Grand I ERIE 1 Feb; 3 Elma ERIE 2 Feb; 50 Little Valley CATT 22 Feb; max 350 DH 23 Feb; 65 Orchard Park ERIE 26 Feb.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 160 OOWMA 14 Dec; 35 Rushford ALLE 9 Feb.

**Rusty Blackbird:** arr AmSP 23 Feb; Wales ERIE 25 Feb; only reports.

**Common Grackle:** ten Dec reports, three Jan reports one each, arr Somerset NIAG 12 Feb.

**Pine Warbler:** Forestville CHAU 7 Feb (GV), only report.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 12, 14, 1, 4 BuSP 1 Dec, 8 Jan, 2, 26 Feb (Ahu, BN); Sturgeon Pt ERIE 3 Dec; EvSP 14 Dec; 4 Lockport NIAG 17 Dec, 16 Jan (AHe); 3 Sheridan CHAU 1 Jan; Barre ORLE 5 Jan; Oakfield ORLE 21 Feb.

**SUMMER TANAGER (R1):** Springville ERIE 1 Dec – 7 Jan (CJH ph!), visited feeder daily, rare and very unusual for this date range.

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## REGION 2—GENESEE

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The winter of 2021-22 provides a good illustration of the various influences on the birding scene that combine to make any season both similar to most of the past but also unique. Weather plays a prominent role, with timing of events critical.

Most longer-term trends remained in play. Some of the recent events simply died down or ended for a season. This was overall a pretty bland season.

On the weather scene, we started with a warm, quiet December, with little snow. Temperatures averaged 36.7° F, 4.7° above normal, for the fifth warmest December on record. Only seven days averaged below normal. Record highs were set on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Precipitation at 2.02" was 0.65" below normal, and snowfall of 10.1" was 12.2" below normal. Lake effect brought some short-lived snow cover on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Passing fronts brought gusty winds on a handful of dates, with 75 mph winds on the 16<sup>th</sup> causing some damage in western parts of the Region. Messy weather hit the southwest part of the Region on the 18<sup>th</sup> and following, once again negatively impacting the Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC. The other two local CBCs saw decent, relatively warm conditions. From this warm start to the season, January slid from a high near 50° on 1 January to chill and snow. Temperatures averaged 19.5°, 6.7° below normal. It was the coldest January since 2015. Precipitation totaled 2.50", 0.05" below normal. There was some snowfall on 28 days, but the only significant event was 10.4" on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Total snowfall was 34.4", 7.5" above normal. The Lake Ontario water temperature dropped from 42° to 34°, and some shore ice developed by month's end. February brought a slow rise in temperatures. There was light snowfall on 19 days, with heavy snows of 9.2" from 2-3 February and 5" on 25 February. Snow cover started at > one foot and dropped slowly. Mid-month saw a record-for-the-date 0.95" of rain on the 17<sup>th</sup>, with some flooding then and again late in the month with more warmth and rainfall. There was limited shoreline ice on Lake Ontario, but bays, ponds, and inland lakes remained frozen all month. Temperatures averaged 26.1°, 1.3° below normal. Precipitation totaled 3.45", 1.32" above normal, and snowfall at 26.3" was 3.2" above normal.

Looking to the general birding picture, there was nothing really surprising. The warm December was certainly a part of the month's large species total, 142 vs. a 10-year average of 132.8. But the cold and snowy January and a bit below average February both also remained at above average species counts at 136 (127.7) and 124 (121.6), respectively. The eBird downloads were likely within normal fluctuations. December's approximately 27,407 was up about 10% from 2021, while January at 33,365 was down about 10% and February at 28,991 down about 20%. The February dip may have been partially caused by the rainy weather around the great Backyard Bird Count period; eBird observers for the month were off about 10% and that weekend typically produces additions to that number.

Overall, the Christmas Bird Count season went very well. The Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC was again hit with bad weather and held to 66 species plus seven added during the count week period. The other two counts were above average, with Rochester at 96 (102) species and Conesus-Hemlock at 87 (89) species. As these counts are well summarized elsewhere, we will just hit the highlights here. New highs or ties reported were: Letchworth-Silver Lake – Snow Goose (68); Rochester – Cackling Goose (5), Harlequin Duck (2), Ruddy Duck (32), Red-bellied Woodpecker (197), American Crow (35,471), and American Pipit (1), plus

two new species for the count – Sanderling and **Great Cormorant**; and Conesus-Hemlock – Wild Turkey (126), Northern Harrier (35), Lesser Black-backed Gull (3), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (4), Tufted Titmouse (190), Marsh Wren (1), Carolina Wren (49), Eastern Bluebird (131), and Yellow-rumped Warbler (19), plus Golden Eagle new for the count.

All the expected waterfowl species were reported in each month, with the possible exception of Ruddy Duck, missed in February, when there are usually a few around on opening lakes. Mostly, numbers were on the low side other than the few annual gatherings where expected, e.g., Long-tailed Duck along the Lake Ontario shore, Redhead on Conesus Lake, and Ring-necked Duck on Hemlock Lake. Mergansers were generally a bit scarce. Rarer species included: a Ross's Goose in January; Greater White-fronted and Cackling Goose in each month; female King Eiders in December and February; a very rare immature male **Common Eider**, first found in late January and then thru the season; a pair of Harlequin Ducks off the Town of Greece all season after mid-December; and a couple of reports of Barrow's x Common Goldeneye in January. The January State Waterfowl Count was again hit with the serious arrival of "real winter" and iffy weather through the count period. Species were down a bit at 31, but most of the expected were spotted somewhere. Total individuals was down about 20% at 41,613, but that is still above the long-term average. Again this year, Canada Goose and Redhead led the totals. On into February, there was only minimal sign of spring increases on patches of open water on Braddock Bay. The arrival of Snow Goose, often in good numbers in February, was noted around us but did not make it to Region 2 as the season ended. But stay tuned for the spring report!

Among the grebes, numbers were very low other than a good count of 826 Red-necked Grebes off Hamlin Beach on 14 December by Andy Guthrie, and then a good count for January of 64 off Benedict Beach on the 1<sup>st</sup>. The lone **Eared Grebe** of the season was spotted by Chris Wood at Hamlin Beach on 26 December. The only rail of the season was a Virginia Rail heard by Andy Guthrie and Chris Wood on the Rochester CBC in the Beatty Point marshes in Greece. Sandhill Crane continued to amaze, with **300-307** tallied in the Northern Montezuma Wildlife Management Area (NMWMA) in the Armitage and Olmstead Roads area in southern Wayne County from 1-10 December and then to 91 still at the NMWMA (Carncross Road) area to 5 January. There were also 10 individuals seen off and on all season from the Honeoye WMA to the Livonia area in Ontario and Livingston Counties.

Some winter seasons, shorebirds can be an empty slot. This season, there were some interesting observations. There were 1-2 Sanderlings seen off and on along the edge of Lake Ontario in the Town of Greece, with two at the Braddock Bay barrier beach island on 5 December and one at various sites through month's end and then one from 12-15 January at the north edge of Irondequoit Bay. There were up to five scattered Purple Sandpiper reports in December, with one to 21 January at Braddock Bay. Single Wilson's Snipe were found on 20 January and 16

February, and a Red Phalarope was at Sodus Point on 4 December. Killdeer was the first spring shorebird arrival, with two in Scottsville on 22 February.

A surprise carryover from the fall incursion was a **Razorbill** spotted near Round Pond Outlet, Greece on 12 December by visiting birders, David Benvent and Ryan Zucker, here for another rarity and taking a look at the lake. **Razorbill** was also seen with later reports off Manitou Beach and Edgemere Drive, Greece on 26 and 27 January by Mitchell Barry, Jessie Barry, and Chris Wood.

Gull variety and numbers were relatively low, though there were ok numbers of the usual Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous Gulls of winter here. The lack of open-water ice edges on the ponds and offshore ice floes limits observations of these. Black-legged Kittiwake was sighted on 3 and 30 December. Low numbers of Bonaparte's Gull continued through late January, then one report of ten was noted on 5 February and no more until spring. Two reports of the rare hybrid **Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull** were posted on 2 and 4-5 January off Greece and on 9 January at Sodus Bay, Wayne County.

Wrapping up the water-related birds, we start with loons scarce, and Red-throated out numbering Common Loons. Double-crested Cormorant continued in double digit numbers, with up to 41 at Sodus Point to 5 December and to 23 at the usual Newport marina on Irondequoit Bay until 12 January. Numbers then dropped to few individuals, as expected in later winter. A highlight of the Rochester CBC was an immature **Great Cormorant**, new for the count, spotted off Greece by Jessie Barry, Andy Guthrie, and Chris Wood, and seen later by at least six others with photos obtained. A Great Egret, seen by Osvaldo Araya and nine others in the Conesus Inlet WMA from **2-4 December**, tied the Regional record late date for the species.

Next, the vultures and the diurnal raptors. We started with numbers up a bit in the warm December. Continuing the long trend, the Cooper's Hawk: Sharp-shinned Hawk reports ratio ran from a start at 5:1 to 3:1 for the season. Bald Eagle counts remained good and Red-shouldered Hawks few. Numbers generally dropped off some later with the increasing cold and snow, but there were some good concentrations of Northern Harrier and at least three locations with Red-shouldered Hawk. Surprises were the Conesus-Hemlock CBC first Golden Eagle on 26 December and then another Golden Eagle found in the town of Ogden by Dave Tetlow on 26 February. The only **Northern Goshawk** of the season was spotted passing off Edgemere Drive, Greece on 25 January by Chris Wood. Rough-legged Hawk provided an opportunity to discuss the need to examine data in some detail. Numbers of "reports", as lines in eBird downloads, varied greatly across months and year to year, but likely numbers of individuals were very similar. This year, a few individuals hung out in the general Braddock Bay area much of the season generating many reports for the few birds. I assembled information for any who might be interested in the issues around determining numbers; none were. An added piece of good news was that David Brown would be returning as the official Braddock Bay hawk counter this spring!

Owls, too, provided a bit more to look at than some years. Good listening weather resulted in good numbers of Eastern Screech-Owl for both the Rochester and Conesus-Hemlock CBCs, 77 and 49, respectively. Snowy Owl also had a decent showing, with about 12-15 individuals reported each month of the season. An interesting personal surprise for me came during the Rochester CBC when scanning Lake Ontario from the East Manitou Road overlook, first in the morning and later in the afternoon. I observed and followed for some time on two occasions different Snowy Owls about a mile offshore apparently hunting ducks and/or gulls over open water. I passed this along to our Snowy expert, Tom MacDonald, and he was not surprised and was interested in the details. More and more is being learned of the species as a primary marine-habitat predator. The Short-eared Owl picture was of relatively low numbers in this year's DEC monitoring efforts. On 1 January Dave Tetlow checked the usual Bergen Swamp sites and logged two Northern Saw-whet Owls. Data from Jim Adams on the usual owl counts from the Owl Woods area along Manitou Beach Road totaled 17 Northern Saw-whet Owls in February, a new high for the month since Jim has summarized the numbers. There were also reports of Long-eared Owl there on two dates, possibly lingering from earlier sightings there.

Finishing the non-passerines, we have the usual couple of woodpeckers of interest, with Yellow-bellied Sapsucker again present in very good numbers, though down some from the last two bonus years, and Red-headed Woodpecker missed for the season. This part ends with the usual comment of the regular falcons all present in good numbers all season.

The passerines followed the trend of expected species being reported each month. The question is always how to cover this big group capturing interesting pieces in reasonable space. This winter, there were no major irruptions. There was only one occurrence of Bohemian Waxwing from 31 December to 1 January and few Cedar Waxwings. Winter finches were scarce, mostly Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins and a few isolated reports of Evening Grosbeak and both crossbills. Snow Bunting and longspurs were hard to find until there was snow cover. There were no major gatherings of blackbirds in the Region. A few special occurrences included: the Region's second latest Black-and-white Warbler to **4 December**, a record late Yellow Warbler on **8 December**, a CBC high 19 Yellow-rumped Warblers on 26 December, a surprising three male Baltimore Orioles reported in January, and then the bird of the season, with Mary Hadley finding a male **Painted Bunting** at her feeder in the Town of Greece on 11 December and alerting the birding community and helping arrange access. It was the Region's second for the species and at least 93 observers reported sightings to eBird through the 14<sup>th</sup>. From here, we could wander through the litany of the many lingering half-hardy species. But the list is similar most years and there is always the question of where the line lies between surprises and fairly regular winter birds in just varying numbers. There were 18 species that fall in this group, with all present in January, Savannah Sparrow and Eastern Towhee missed in December, and Marsh Wren, Gray Catbird, American Pipit, Swamp Sparrow, and Eastern Meadowlark missing in

February. This season, we did see a significant fall off in several of the species in February beyond the usual drops of the past couple of years. For illustration, some of those still present (with some numbers in parentheses) included: Winter Wren (5), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1), Hermit Thrush (12), Eastern Towhee (1), Chipping Sparrow (1), Field Sparrow (5), Savannah Sparrow (1), Fox Sparrow (max. 2), many White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows, and Yellow-rumped Warbler (7 reports of 1-3). As usual, noteworthy records tables on the Rochester Birding Association website have more detailed records.

A major problem in assembling these reports is trying to select material of likely interest to readers. The overall data set is very large. Birds reported depend on weather, timing, the presence of special species of interest to many, etc., etc., .... It would be a great help if even occasionally there were some feedback from readers. What would you, the readers, like to see more or less of in these reports?

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**BB** – Braddock Bay, T Greece, MONR; **BB – ES or WS** – East Spit or West Spit at the mouth of Braddock Bay; **BB – HW** – at or from Braddock Bay hawk watch; **CHCBC** – Conesus-Hemlock CBC on 26 Dec; **CL** – Conesus L, LIVI; **DEP** – Durand-Eastman P, MONR; **ED** – off Edgemere Dr, G; **G** – T Greece, MONR; **H** – T Hamlin, MONR; **HB** – Hamlin Beach SP, MONR; **IBO** – Irondequoit Bay Outlet, MONR; **IB – S** – Irondequoit Bay south end, including LaSalle Landing P area; **IB – W** – west side of Irondequoit Bay including some parklands; **LSCBC** – Letchworth-Silver Lake CBC on 18 Dec; **LSP** – Letchworth SP; **M (OW)** – owl woods area off Manitou Beach Rd on W side of Braddock Bay; **MP** – Mendon Ponds P, MONR; **NMWMA** – Northern Montezuma WMA, T Savannah, WAYN; **NMWMA (AR)** – north side of Armitage Rd; **NMWMA (CR)** – Carncross Rd area flooded fields; **NMWMA (MR)** – Morgan Rd marshes area; **NMWMA (VDS)** – woods and wetlands along Van Dyne Spoor Rd; **OB** – Ontario Beach, T Charlotte, MONR; **RCBC** – Rochester Christmas Bird Count on 19 Dec; **Spt** – Sodus Pt, WAYN; **TCEA** – Twin Cedars Environmental Area at Avon DEC offices; **TPP** – Turning Point P, Rochester.

**Snow Goose:** max 3000 T Richmond, ONTA 26 Dec (KKi, WS, SH); 5 CL-N 3 Jan, month max; 50 NMWMA (MR) 23 Feb, month max.

**Ross's Goose:** 1 ad H, mult loc 12-14 Jan (AGu, 11+ oth obs).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 3 ad H, mult loc 1, 2, 24 Dec, 1-16 Jan (mob); Silver Lake, WYOM 4 Jan (BCar); IB 21 Feb (CGi, RRe); still a scarce visitor.

**Brant:** last ED nr Lake Ontario shore thru 17 Dec, lingering on lawn and breakwall, many ph.

**Cackling Goose:** 24 rep, ~55 ind 16+ loc Dec; max 7 T Parma 11 Dec (MBa); 21 rep,

~21 ind 15 loc 1-19 Jan; max 7 Silver Lake, WYOM 4 Jan (BCar); 2 BB 21 Feb.

**Canada Goose:** max 8000 TCEA 9 Dec (MW); 600 T Lyons, WAYN 18 Feb, very low Feb max.

**Snow x Canada Goose:** Church Rd area, H 13 Dec (AGu, 5 oth obs); Shore Acres, H 2-3 Jan (AGu).

**Mute Swan:** max 378 RCBC 19 Dec; 230 BB 30 Jan (KH); 260 BB 22 Feb (AGu); too many.

**Trumpeter Swan:** max 21 NMWMA (SCU) 6 Jan (KCa, GG).

**Tundra Swan:** max 160 T Savannah, WAYN 20 Dec (JRo).

**Wood Duck:** 1f last Turning Pt P, ROCH 17, 29 Dec (CBR, KE); T Richmond, ONTA 8 Jan (DT); ED 2 Feb (JeB); Burger P, G 21 Feb (MBa); 2 arr Cuyerville Rd, LIVI 23 Feb (TL).

**Northern Shoveler:** 13 ponds area G 24 Dec-3 Jan (mob); 1-3 IB to BB 17-20 Feb (7 obs); 2 SPT 10, 27 Feb (TL, MT).

**Gadwall:** max 40 Crescent Beach, G 19 Dec (RB, JuW, NK), decent count.

**American Wigeon:** last Bear Crk Harbor, WAYN 30 Dec (JWi); 1-3 ind 8 loc Jan (26+ obs), usually scarce in winter; arr 4 BB & SPT 12 Feb (AGu, JWi); max 22 BB 26 Feb (AGu).

**Mallard:** max 1538 CL 16 Jan (MW); 540 Seneca P, ROCH 10 Feb (LBer), usual winter huddle.

**American Black Duck:** 150 CL-W 6 Jan (TBo), good count.

**Northern Pintail:** 15 BB-ES 25 Dec (CW); 8 NMWMA (AR) 1 Jan (DT); arr 4 SPT 11 Feb (K&MG); max 70 BB 22 Feb (AGu).

**Green-winged Teal:** last Alder Beach, T Parma 18 Dec (JiM); 7, 2 Mumford, MONR 21, 31 Jan (R&SSp); max 12 Cold Spring Rd Pd, LIVI 25 Feb (MW).

**Canvasback:** max 20 BB 28 Feb (PMar), low max.

**Redhead:** 3500 CL 26 Dec (JKi); 5952 CL 16 Jan (MW).

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 500 Hemlock L P 5 Jan (J&BVDM).

**Greater Scaup:** max 430 BB 22 Feb, low max.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 120 CL 26 Dec, low max.

**scaup sp.:** max 1000 IBO 1 Jan, interesting, but not high.

**King Eider:** 2 f HB 10 Dec (AGu); 1 f HB-WE 26 Dec (CW); 1 f Lake Ontario shore just e of BB 2, 12, 14 Feb (JiM, RB, AGu, MBa).

**COMMON EIDER:** 1 imm m Genesee R mouth 27-28 Jan (NU, 22+ oth obs, phs); scattered sites along Lake Ontario shore west to Manitou Beach off and on thru rest of season (mob); very rare here.

**Harlequin Duck:** 1f & 1m from mostly near Round Pd Outlet, G west to BB area 11 Dec thru (mob, phs); 1f SPT 19 Jan (JWi, MGu, TL, W&MR).

**White-winged Scoter:** max 350 off Rigney's Bluff, G 31 Jan (KH).

**Long-tailed Duck:** 1370 ED 24 Dec (CW); max 5200 Round Pd Outlet to Rigney's Bluff, G bay 22 Jan (R&SSp); 1900 Round Pd Outlet to Rigney's Bluff, G bay 31 Jan (KH); illustration of sometimes brief, local gatherings of species.

**Bufflehead:** max 65 Silver L, WYOM 1 Jan (KKu), low max.

**Common Goldeneye:** max 241 Chimney Bluffs, WAYN 16 Jan (DSh, MT).

**BARROW'S x COMMON**

**GOLDENEYE (R2):** 1 imm m off Manitou Beach 19, 22 Jan (R&SSp); 1 f off Manitou Beach 26 Jan (PMar).

**Hooded Merganser:** max 190 CL-N 14 Dec (TBo).

**Common Merganser:** max 850 Lake Bluff Rd, Irondequoit 7 Feb (MTe), good count after low most of season.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 1085 Chimney Bluffs, WAYN 16 Jan (DSh, MT).

**Ruddy Duck:** max 54 Sandy Bottom P, Honeoye L 3 Dec (TBo); no rep Feb.

**Wild Turkey:** max 126 CHCBC 26 Dec, new CBC high.

**Horned Grebe:** max 10 Beechwood SP, WAYN 9 Jan, very low max.

**Red-necked Grebe:** max 826 HB 14 Dec (AGu), good count; 64 Benedict Beach (end Martin Rd), H 1 Jan (JeB, MBa, AGu, CW), late for so many.

**EARED GREBE (R2):** HB 26 Dec (CW), good find.

**Virginia Rail:** Beatty Pt, G 19 Dec (AGu, CW), heard during CBC work.

**American Coot:** max 92 IB-N 8 Dec, low max.

**Sandhill Crane:** max 300-307 NMWMA (AR & Olmstead Rd) 1-10 Dec (AJ, PS, KGa); 10 Honeoye WMA, ONTA to T Livonia, LIVI 26 Dec-15 Feb (KKi, WS, SH, BHo, KGa, DD, PMar, oth obs); 91 NMWMA (CR) 5 Jan (W&MR); continuing increases in Reg.

**Killdeer:** arr 2 Scottsville, MONR 22 Feb (BHaa).

**Sanderling:** 2 BB-ES 5 Dec (MGi, ph); 1 OB area to BB 15-31 Dec, 1, 8 Jan (JiM, mob); IB-N 12-15 Jan (12+ obs), likely same ind.

**Purple Sandpiper:** Summerville Pier 16-17 Dec (LP, 5 oth obs, ph); BB-WS 17 Dec (DF); IBO 25 Dec (CW, mob, ph); 1; 2 BB-ES 27-29; 30 Dec (MBa, mob, phs); last BB-ES 1-2 Jan (15+ obs).

**Wilson's Snipe:** T Ogden, MONR 20 Jan (DT); BB-ES 16 Feb (JGo).

**Red Phalarope:** last Spt 4 Dec (MMi, mob).

**RAZORBILL:** off Round Pd Outlet, G 12 Dec (DBen, RZ), *intro*; off Manitou Beach 26 Jan (MBa); ED 27 Jan (JeB, CW); likely still in lake basin from fall incursion.

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** 1 imm HB 3 Dec (AGu, phs); 1 imm OB 30 Dec (CW).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 59 IB-S 1 Dec, low max; 10 IBO 5 Feb (CBra), only Feb rep.

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 4000 IBO 18 Feb (CBra), good count.

**Herring Gull:** 2000 BB 4 Jan (AGu), good count.

**Iceland Gull:** 10 ind 7 loc 4-31 Dec; 11 rep, ~13 ind 6 loc Jan; 16 rep, ~14 ind 6 loc Feb.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 10 rep, 10 ind 9 loc Dec; 10 rep, ~10 ind 7 loc 4-31 Jan; 8 rep, ~7 ind 4 loc 11-27 Feb.

**Glaucous Gull:** 33 rep, ~21 ind 15 loc Dec; 25 rep, ~17 ind 13 loc Jan; 6 rep, ~6 ind 5 loc 11-26 Feb.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 68 IB – Bay Village 17 Feb (NU).

**Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Buck Pd, G & BB 2 & 4-5 Jan (CW & AGu); Sodus Bay – Shaker Tract 9 Jan (TL).

**Red-throated Loon:** max 15 OB area 24 Dec; 10 IB – Newport marina 1 Jan; otherwise low numbers thru.

**Common Loon:** low numbers thru.

**GREAT CORMORANT (R2):** 1 imm off G 19 Dec (JeB, AGu, CW, 6+ oth obs, phs), first for RCBC.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 41 SPt 5 Dec (AGu, BriM); 23 IB – Newport marina 12 Jan (RSp), last higher count for season.

**Great Egret:** Conesus In WMA 2-4 Dec (OA, 9+ oth obs, phs), ties Reg record late

**Turkey Vulture:** max 49 T Lima 8 Jan (DT), good winter count.

**Golden Eagle:** CHCBC 26 Dec (sev obs), CBC first; T Ogden, MONR 26 Feb (DT); few winter reports.

**Northern Harrier:** max 35 CHCBC 26 Dec, new CBC high.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** 70 eBird lines many loc Jan; 45 eBird lines many loc Feb.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 209 eBird lines many loc Jan; 153 eBird lines many loc Feb.

**Northern Goshawk:** ED 25 Jan (CW), passing bird, reports few now.

**Bald Eagle:** 281 eBird lines 96+ loc Dec; 345 eBird lines many loc Jan; 282 eBird lines many loc Feb.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Nations Rd IBA 30 Dec (JMon); N Wolcott, WAYN 2, 12, 20 Feb (W&MR); Nations Rd IBA LIVI 20 Feb (KCI); Parker Hill Rd, T Sparta, LIVI 21 Feb (KCI).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 39 rep, ~14 ind 15+ loc 5-31 Dec; 84 rep, ~16 ind 17 loc Jan; 57 rep, 22+ ind 18+ loc Feb.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** 77 RCBC 19 Dec; 49 CHCBC 26 Dec; good counts.

**Snowy Owl:** 40 rep, ~15 ind 19 loc Dec; 2, 8:25 AM & 3:20 PM, off East Manitou Rd overlook 19 Dec (RSp), different birds hunting over open water about 1 mile offshore, *intro*; 43 rep, 14 ind 15+ loc Jan; 41 rep, 12+ ind 10 loc Feb.

**Long-eared Owl:** M (OW) 6 Jan (JiM); BB area 22-23 Jan (QM, ES); M (OW) 20, 27 Feb (6+ obs); scarce in winter.

**Short-eared Owl:** max: 10 Nations Rd IBA 5 Feb (MT).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** 2 Bergen Swamp 1 Jan (DT); total 17 ind M (OW) Feb (BBRR counters), highest for a Feb, *intro*.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** no reports.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** max 197 RCBC 19 Dec, CBC record high.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** total ~25 ind 25 loc Dec; 55 rep, ~36 ind 33+ loc Jan; 20 rep, 12 ind 11 loc 1-23 Feb, drop off late.

**American Kestrel:** 57 rep, ~34 ind 29+ loc Dec; 77 rep, ~33 ind 31 loc Jan; 47 rep, 21 ind 14+ loc Feb.

**Merlin:** 54 rep, ~49 ind 45 loc Dec; 43 rep, 41+ ind 36+ loc Jan; 28 rep, 22 ind 22 loc Feb.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 26 rep, ~21 ind 18 loc Dec; 26 rep, 16+ ind 15 loc 4-31 Jan; 26 rep, ~12 ind 12 loc 7-22 Feb.

**Northern Shrike:** 36 rep, ~17 ind 15 loc Dec; 30 rep, ~11 ind 11 loc 1-22 Jan; 7 rep, ~6 ind 3 loc Feb.

**American Crow:** max **35,471** RCBC 19 Dec, new CBC high, Douglas Bassett tallied 34,900 of these at Frontier field; 1200 T Fairport 30 Jan (D&ER), good count; 900 LB Farm, T Savannah, WAYN 19 Feb (B&LG), interesting gathering site.

**Fish Crow:** 6 OB area 30 Dec, month's max; 10 Northgate Plaza, G 1 Jan, month's max; total 12+ ind 8+ loc Feb, spreading out more.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** 1194 eBird lines Dec, 1417 eBird lines Jan; 1429 eBird lines Feb; illustrates many reports for common birds; down from 2021.

**Tufted Titmouse:** max **190** CHCBC 26 Dec, new CBC high; 952 eBird lines Jan; 1015 eBird lines Feb.

**Horned Lark:** max 150 Church Rd, H 23 Jan, good count.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Tryon P – N, Irondequoit 17 Dec (SG); York Rd, T Leroy 2 Jan (NK); Chimney Bluffs, WAYN 7 Feb (MGu); usually scarce in winter.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** 3 nr Newco Dr, H 31 Dec (AGu, LBer, KH); 1 nr Newco Dr, H 1 Jan (JeB, MBa, CW), continuing; only reps.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 140 nr Newco Dr, H 31 Dec (AGu), generally scarce this winter.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 218 eBird lines Dec; 313 eBird lines Jan; 276 eBird lines Feb; many reps continuing thru, but well down from 2021.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** 793 eBird lines Dec; 945 eBird lines Jan; 905 eBird lines Feb; many reps continuing thru.

**Winter Wren:** 62 rep, ~58 ind 39 loc Dec; 37 rep, 25 ind 18 loc Jan; 6 rep, 5 ind 5 loc 1-19 Feb; many for winter.

**Marsh Wren:** total ~14 ind, 9 loc 5-29 Dec; total ~5 ind, 5 loc 1-16 Jan.

**Carolina Wren:** max **49** CHCBC 26 Dec, new CBC high.

**Gray Catbird:** total 8 ind 7 loc 8-28 Dec; total ~7 ind 6 loc Jan; total 5 ind 5 loc Feb, usually scarce in winter.

**Brown Thrasher:** Webster P 23 Dec; 2 Jan (GL, JIM, JJu; KH), rare in winter.

**Eastern Bluebird:** max **131** Conesus-Hemlock CBC 26 Dec, new CBC high; 24 nr Newco Dr, H 3 Jan (AGu), many for loc & date.

**Hermit Thrush:** 36 rep, ~34 ind 22+ loc Dec; 40 rep, ~33 ind 26 loc Jan; 15 rep, ~12 ind 10 loc 2-22 Feb; usually scarce in win.

**American Robin:** max 1880 BB-ES 30 Jan (CW), high for date.

**American Pipit:** BB-ES 19 Dec (RB, ph, GL, JuW); BB – Buttonwood Crk 1 Jan (JeB, MBa, AGu, CW); scarce in winter.

**Evening Grosbeak:** 2 nr Newco Dr, H 1 Jan (JeB, MBa, AGu, CW), only rep.

**Common Redpoll:** monthly max: 90 DEP 18 Dec (AGa); 120 H 4 Jan (ABl); 60 Newco DR, H 13 Feb (RB, LBer).

**Red Crossbill:** HB-WE 21 Dec (CW); max 20 Hoffman Rd, Irondequoit 8 Jan (LBer).

**White-winged Crossbill:** WP 8 Dec (NU).

**Pine Siskin:** max: 50 W 27 Feb (AGa).

**Lapland Longspur:** max 17 Church Rd, H 17 Jan (AGu).

**Snow Bunting:** 155 BB-ES 30 Dec (NK); 220 T Groveland, LIVI 19 Jan (J&KG); max 350 T Groveland, LIVI 10 Feb (J&KG).

**Chipping Sparrow:** Quaker Rd, Scottsville 9-27 Dec, 7-27 Jan (BHaa, ph); Hoffman Rd, Irondequoit 16 Jan (CW); T Webster 5 Feb (RSp); usually scarce in winter.

**Field Sparrow:** Poplar Hill Rd, T Lima 26 Dec (RB, JuW, RRe); BB-ES 31 Dec (DSt); 4 NMWMa (MR) 8 Jan (DSh); total 5 ind 4 loc 2, 18-20 Feb (5obs); usually scarce in winter.

**Fox Sparrow:** MP 1 Dec (DHo); Burger P, G 1 Jan (JeB, MBa, AGu, CW); 1-2 MP 15-30 Jan (J&TV, 16 oth obs, phs); Hogan Pt, G 20, 24 Jan (DT); 5 rep 1-2 ind MP 2-11 Feb (sev obs); usually scarce in winter.

**American Tree Sparrow:** max 110 T Mt Morris, LIVI 20 Jan (DT) & Church Rd, H 21 Jan (AGu).

**PHOTO GALLERY**  
**Winter 2021-22**



Top: White-winged Crossbill, Long Lake, *Hamilton*, 28 Jan 2022; bottom: Red Crossbills, Piseco Lake Inlet, *Hamilton*, 30 Jan 2022, both © Ryan Mandelbaum. See Notes and Observations pp. 134-135.



Mountain Bluebird, Esopus Meadows Preserve, *Ulster*, here 11 Jan 2022, © Jim Yates.



Painted Bunting, Rochester, *Monroe*, here 11 Dec 2021, © Mary Hadley.



Northern Lapwing, Santapogue Creek, *Suffolk*, 18 Dec 2021 © Mike Vedder.



Slaty-backed Gull, Central Park, *New York*, here 1 Feb 2022, © Evan Schumann.



Unidentified *Larus*, Old Field Point, Suffolk; top: 23 Feb 2022 © Barbara LaGois; bottom: 22 Feb 2022, © Patrice Domeischel. See next page.



Presumed hybrid Lesser Black-backed x Herring Gulls, Stevenson Road Game Farm and Compost, Tompkins; left: 20 Mar 2016 © Ian Davies; right: 9 Mar 2022 © Jay McGowan.



Unidentified *Larus*, Old Field Point, Suffolk, 22 Feb (left) & 23 Feb 2022, © Patrice Domeischel. Based on overall structure, mantle tone, and wingtip pattern, this bird is thought possibly to be a European Herring Gull (*L. a. argentatus*), northern populations of which have darker mantles than other Herring Gulls, reduced black in the wingtips, and frequently show yellow legs. Presumed hybrids between Lesser Black-backed and Herring Gulls are similar but typically show more black in the wingtips, duller legs, and other differences. See Note on pp. 136-139.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** monthly max: 40 DEP 23 Dec (JSI); 82 T Leroy, GENE 21 Jan (DT); 57 LB Farm, WAYN 19 Feb (B&LG).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** max 31 CHCBC 26 Dec, new CBC high; 30 Chase Rd, H 15 Jan (R&SSp, ph); 132 eBird lines Feb.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 62 T Leroy, GENE 21 Jan (DT); 609 eBird lines Feb.

**Savannah Sparrow:** total ~13 ind 9 loc 3-27 Jan (10+ obs); Nations Rd IBA, LIVI 9 Feb (RGar); usually scarce & local in winter.

**Swamp Sparrow:** no rep Feb.

**Eastern Towhee:** E Henrietta Rd, MONR 15-20 Jan (EP, DG, BCar); Beardsley Rd, T Perry, WYOM 15 Feb (CSm).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Nations Rd IBA 3 Dec (CHi); Rush-Henrietta TLR, MONR 19 Jan (BCar).

**Baltimore Oriole:** 1ad m E Swamp RD, T Conesus, LIVI 1 Jan (NK); 1 ad m H of Newark, WAYN 3-4 Jan (NHar); 1 ad m home 5-10 Jan (JLan).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** monthly max: 500 Butcher Rd, T Parma 19 Dec (R&SSp); 185 Munger Rd, T Clarendon, GENE 24 Jan (DT); 100 Quaker Rd, Scottsville 24 Feb (BHaa); low numbers thru.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 450 Smith Rd, T Pittsford 11 Dec (MT).

**Rusty Blackbird:** Church Trail, G 19 Dec (CW); Genesee Valley Greenway, T Leicester, LIVI 21 Dec (OA); Dansville, LIVI 17 Jan (OA); 1-2 Old Duck Inn, T Galen WAYN 26 Jan, 3 Feb (DO); T York, LIVI 18 Feb (LT); scarce in winter.

**Common Grackle:** max 200 T Rush, MONR 29 Dec (SSh), low max.

**blackbird sp:** max 650 River Rd N of Rt 5, LIVI 5 Jan (NK).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** Abraham Lincoln P, T Penfield **4 Dec** (SG, AGu, JiM, TN), second latest Reg.

**Common Yellowthroat:** NMWMA (Deep Muck) 1 Dec (SPod), late.

**Yellow Warbler:** IBO **8 Dec** (NU), Reg record late.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 19 CHCBC 26 Dec, new CBC high; total ~17 ind 16 oth loc Dec (20+ obs); 11 rep, 16+ ind 11 loc Jan; 7 rep, 1-3 ind 4 loc 1-21 Feb (5 obs); often scarce in winter.

**Northern Cardinal:** 1116 eBird lines Dec; 1668 eBird lines Jan; 1800 eBird lines Feb; many reports.

**PAINTED BUNTING:** 1 ad m Webwood Circle, G 11-14 Dec (Mary Hadley, 93+ oth obs, phs), second Reg record, *intro*.

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## REGION 3—FINGER LAKES

### Bill Ostrander

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December 2021 was warmer and slightly drier than normal. At Ithaca, the average low temperature was 27.3° F, 5.3° above normal. The average high was 41.2°, 5.0° above normal. Total precipitation was 2.26", 0.31" less than normal. Total snowfall was 3.7", 8.5" less than normal. Maximum snow depth was one inch, attained on six days. January was colder and drier than normal. The average low temperature was 6.5°, 8.1° below normal. The average high was 27.4°, 3.6° below normal. Total precipitation was 1.28", 0.96" less than normal. Total snowfall was 14.8", 1.8" less than normal. Snow depth twice peaked at eight inches and there was at least one inch of snow cover on all but seven days. February days were warmer than normal, but nights were colder than normal. The average low temperature was 13.5°, 1.6° below normal. The average high was 34.5°, 1.4° above normal. Total precipitation was 2.72", 0.74" more than normal. Total

snowfall was 17.0", 2.5" more than normal. Peak snow depth was 16", with at least one inch of snow cover on all but two days.

Two species of waterfowl were found in high numbers: Green-winged Teal in early December and Common Mergansers in mid-January. The early mild weather allowed the teal to linger into December when they are usually scarce. Conversely, the very cold January weather resulted in the freezing of shallow water bodies and portions of rivers which may have caused the concentration of Common Mergansers on the larger lakes. Unusual waterfowl included Ross's Goose at four locations and Greater White-fronted Goose at three. Unusual ducks were a Tufted Duck on Seneca Lake in late January, a Black Scoter on Cayuga Lake in early December, and a Barrow's Goldeneye on Seneca Lake the last half of February. An Eared Grebe was on Seneca Lake in mid-February and a couple of Red-throated Loons were on Cayuga Lake in early December. There was a high count of Double-crested Cormorants in mid-January on Seneca Lake.

Sandhill Cranes set another winter record with 400 at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge in mid-December. A Red Phalarope was on Seneca Lake through the first half of December. There were high counts of Iceland Gulls in late January and of Glaucous Gulls in late February.

Among raptors, observers found high counts of Black and Turkey Vultures, Northern Harriers, and Snowy Owls. The only report of Northern Goshawk came from Chemung County.

There were high counts of Northern Flickers and American Robins in mid-December, and of Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Tufted Titmice, White-breasted Nuthatches, Winter Wrens, and Carolina Wrens in early January.

Winter finches were scarce. Nevertheless, Purple Finches, Common Redpolls, Red Crossbills, Pine Siskins, and a single Evening Grosbeak made appearances. The mild weather in December resulted in many lingerers: an Eastern Phoebe, a Blue-headed Vireo, a high count of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, a House Wren, a Marsh Wren, Gray Catbirds, a Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrushes, American Pipits, Chipping Sparrows, a Clay-colored Sparrow, Fox Sparrows, White-crowned Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, Eastern Towhees, a high count of Eastern Meadowlarks, a Baltimore Oriole, and Common Yellowthroats.

A Fox Sparrow arrived on the early date of 16 February. White-throated Sparrows set a high count in mid-February. Rock Pigeons, European Starlings, and House Sparrows all made their marks. European Starlings set a new high count. The season's maximum counts of Rock Pigeons and House Sparrows were new lows.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**HH** – Hog Hole, TOMP; **MNWR** – Montezuma NWR; **SenL** – Seneca L; **SLSP** – Seneca L SP; **SW** – Sapsucker Woods, TOMP; **TDry** – T Dryden, TOMP; **TFay** – T Fayette, SENE; **TOv** – T Ovid, SENE; **TSF** – T Seneca Falls, SENE.

**Ross's Goose:** TFay 13 Dec; T Scipio CAYU 31 Dec; Cayuga L TOMP 4-18 Jan; arr Savannah Mucklands SENE 23 Feb.  
**Greater White-fronted Goose:** MNWR 17 Dec; T Varick SENE 16 Jan; Geneva Beach SENE 21-27 Jan.  
**Green-winged Teal:** max 1000 MNWR 3 Dec (RN!), high.

**Canvasback x Redhead (hybrid):** SenL 16-30 Jan (TL!, ph).  
**Redhead x Ring-necked Duck (hybrid):** SenL SENE 16 Jan (TL!, ph).  
**TUFTED DUCK (R3):** SenL SENE 26 Jan-1 Feb (TL!, ph).  
**Ring-necked Duck x scaup sp. (hybrid):** Geneva Beach 8-13 Feb (TL!).

**Redhead x Lesser Scaup (hybrid):** Seneca Yacht Club SENE 20 Feb (TL!, ph).

**Black Scoter:** Stewart P TOMP 1-2 Dec (J. McGowan, ph).

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** SLSP 15 Feb thru (T. Lenz!, ph).

**Common Merganser:** 4200 Cayuga L SP 12 Jan (JM!), high.

**Eared Grebe:** SenL 13 Feb thru (JM, ph).

**Rock Pigeon:** max 213 Ithaca 1 Jan, low.

**Sandhill Crane:** max 400 MNWR 16 Dec (BB!), high.

**Killdeer:** Outlet Creek ONTA 5 Dec; Hornell Municipal Airport STEU 8 Dec; Burtis Pt CAYU 24 Dec; arr Northeast Ithaca 22 Feb.

**Red Phalarope:** last SenL SENE 1-16 Dec (JiC!), late.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Myers Pt TOMP 3 Dec; SenL House SENE 28 Dec; City Pier ONTA 12 Jan.

**Iceland Gull:** max 10 Oak Island SENE 28 Jan (JM!, ph), high.

**Herring x Lesser Black-backed Gull (hybrid):** T Ithaca TOMP 12 Jan (PH, TH, ph).

**Herring x Glaucous Gull (hybrid):** SLSP 2 Dec; Van Cleef L SENE 10-12 Jan; SLSP 31 Jan.

**Glaucous Gull:** max 6 City Pier ONTA 23 Feb (TL!), high.

**Herring x Great Black-backed Gull (hybrid):** Allens Pt CAYU 16 Jan (AD, KR!).

**Red-throated Loon:** Stone School CAYU 2 Jan; max 3 Stewart P TOMP 7 Dec; last Allan H Treman State Marine P 13 Dec.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 34 SenL YATE 21 Jan (TL), high.

**Black Vulture:** max 5 Herwood Hollow TOMP 2 Feb (PH), high.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 120 Stevenson Road Compost Piles TOMP 11 Dec (KMCG), high.

**Northern Harrier:** max 22 T Phelps ONTA 5 Jan (MKe!), high.

**Northern Goshawk:** T Van Etten CHEM 7 Jan (JoC).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Outlet Creek ONTA 5 Dec; Lake House ONTA 16 Jan; T Danby TOMP 19 Feb; Frontenac P CAYU 27-28 Feb.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 14 T Lodi SENE 13 Dec, low.

**Snowy Owl:** max 5 Finger Lakes Regional Airport SENE 31 Dec-1 Jan (mob), high.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** Wilderness House TOMP 29 Jan; T Ithaca TOMP 27-28 Feb.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** max 13 SW 4 Jan (JoBr), high.

**Northern Flicker:** max 16 TSF 20 Dec (RSt!), high.

**Eastern Phoebe:** HH 18 Dec-8 Jan (mob, ph).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** HH 2-8 Jan (mob, ph).

**American Crow:** max 1000 Cornell University 29 Jan; 1000 Stevenson Road Compost Piles 26 Feb, low.

**Tufted Titmouse:** max 32 Northeast Ithaca 1 Jan (PH, TH), high.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 7 Salt Pt Natural Area TOMP 10 Dec (JM!), high.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 30 SW 9 Jan (GG), high.

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** SLSP 4 Dec (KG, ph).

**House Wren:** HH 1 Jan (SSu, AY!).

**Winter Wren:** max 8 TSF 1 Jan (RSt!), high.

**Marsh Wren:** MNWR 17 Dec (JM!).

**Carolina Wren:** max 14 Ithaca 1 Jan (DNu!), high.

**Gray Catbird:** T Corning STEU 11 Dec; TSF 20 Dec; max 2 Hi Tor WMA YATE 12 Jan (BCa!), high; TOv 6 Feb.

**Brown Thrasher:** T Caton STEU 20 Feb (DG, ph).

**European Starling:** max 50,000 T Waterloo SENE 11 Dec (JM!), high.

**Hermit Thrush:** max 2 Sampson SP 21 Feb; 2 T Caroline TOMP 25 Jan.

**American Robin:** max 5273 T Ulysses TOMP 20 Jan (AY!), high.

**House Sparrow:** max 90 T Summerhill CAYU 18 Dec, low.

**American Pipit:** max 8 TOv 23 Jan.

**Evening Grosbeak:** TDry 4 Dec (MiW).

**Purple Finch:** max 72 T Caroline TOMP 13 Jan.

**Common Redpoll:** max 12 Monkey Run TOMP 26 Feb.

**Red Crossbill:** max 11 TDry 16 Dec.

**Pine Siskin:** max 20 TFay 27 Feb.

**Lapland Longspur:** max 15 T Benton YATE 22 Jan; 15 T Romulus SENE 30 Jan.

**Snow Bunting:** max 1000 Belltown Dairy CAYU 26 Feb.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Cayuga Heights 30 Dec; T Manchester ONTA 3 Jan-25 Feb; max 3 Dryden 8 Jan (SH!), high; T Gorham ONTA 24 Jan.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** TFay 7 Dec (MKe, ph).

**Fox Sparrow:** last SW 3 Dec; Groton Avenue P TOMP 10 Jan; arr SW 16 Feb (KMcG!), early.

**American Tree Sparrow:** max 140 TFay 30 Jan.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** max 16 T Romulus SENE 30 Jan.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 50 T Montezuma CAYU 19 Feb (DCa!), high.

**Savannah Sparrow:** max 6 TOv 23 Jan (SB, BW, ph),

**Eastern Towhee:** TDry 2 Dec (KC!); T Venice CAYU 10 Jan (AMo!).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** max 8 TDry 31 Jan (ABC!), high.

**Baltimore Oriole:** Finger Lakes Trail TOMP 3 Jan (ZC!).

**Rusty Blackbird:** max 20 TSF 20 Dec.

**Common Yellowthroat:** Townsend-Grady Wildlife Pres YATE 1 Jan (HH, ph); T Benton YATE 22 Jan (MKe!).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 29 TSF 20 Dec (RSt!), high.

## REGION 4—SUSQUEHANNA

### Lance Verderame

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Weather data obtained from the Binghamton Station showed a high of 60° F on 16 December and a low of 15° on 20 December. The average temperature for the month of December was 34.2° which was 6.1° above normal. December precipitation was 2.85" which was 0.23" below normal. The high temperature for the month of January was 51° on 1 January and the low was -10° on 22 January. The average temperature for January was 17.6° which was 4.9° below normal. January precipitation was 1.90" which was 0.72" below normal. For the month of February the high temperature was 56° on 22 February and a low of 1° on 6 and

14 February. The average temperature was 25.2° which was 0.7° below normal. The precipitation for February was 3.33" which was 0.92" above normal.

As usual, waterfowl was very well represented in the period with some very nice reports. Trumpeter Swans were reported in both Broome and Delaware Counties. To the best of my knowledge the three birds found in Delaware County are a first county record. Both Broome and Delaware Counties also had the only reports of Cackling Goose. Both Mute and Tundra Swan were reported in the Region as well. Sea ducks such as White-winged Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, and Red-breasted Merganser were reported throughout the Region.

It is always fun in winter to look for gulls and this year five species were reported. There was only one report of Bonaparte's Gull (4) On Boland Pond. This year they were dumping waste close to Route 10 at the Delaware Waste Facility. There was a Regional high of 350 Ring-billed Gulls found there on 5 December. Also found there by the author was a crisp looking first-year Iceland Gull on 5 February. A Region-high 45 Herring Gulls were present at Skaneateles Lake on 21 February, and last but not least, two Great Black-backed Gulls were recorded at Cortland Gravel Pits on 26 February.

The irruption of Red Crossbills in the state this winter, mainly in the Adirondacks, reached Region 4 as well, and among the many, widespread reports were observations of singing, courtship, and display, indicating possible or probable nesting.

Other interesting reports for the period include a very late Spotted Sandpiper, seen and photographed by Glenn Wilson at Dorchester Park on 28 December. While very scarce, there were some scattered reports of Common Redpolls and Evening Grosbeaks in the Region. Northern Shrike was report in a few locations as well.

My pick for bird(s) of the Region for the period goes to the two Short-eared Owls reported in the Newark Valley Area in Tioga County. The birds were originally found by Adam Troyer.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Dennis Anderson, Ryan Andrew, Maggie Bardsley, Wes Blauvelt, Marty Borko, Sandy Bright, Ted Buhl, Rick Bunting, Larry Chen, Jeremy Collison, Sandy Covington, Bart Davis, Sam Deane, Michael DeWispelaere, Michael Foor-Pessin, Heidi Faulkner, John Garrett, Martha Gauthier, Derek Green, John Haas, Linda Hall, Peter Harrity, Donna Hatch, Valerie Holmes, James Hoteling, MaryPat Hyland, Jennifer Hyppio, Brendan Jones, M. Jordan, Christina Knezevich, William Kuk, Victor Lamoureux, Mitch Light, Linda Lutz, Matt Malin, David McCartt, Jay McGowan, Bob McGuire, David Nicosia, John Pumilio, Emily Reese, Michael Reid, John Roosenberg, Mickey Ryan, Charles Scheim, Alison Schroeder, Maria Scicchitano, Suzanne Summers, Sarah Toner, Alex Trifunovic, Adam Troyer, James Van Gelder, Lance Verderame, Dan Watkins, Jonathan Weeks, Glenn Wilson, Sam Wilson, Chris Wood, Matthew Young.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**ALk** – Allen L, OTSE; **AqPk** – Aquaterra P, BROO; **BCBC** – Binghamton CBC, BROO; **BMF** – Birdsong Meadows Farm, TIOG; **BPd** – Boland Pd, BROO; **BUNP** – Binghamton University Nature Pres, BROO; **CaHo** – Cannon Hole, T Barton, TIOG; **CanL** – Canadarago L, OTSE; **CannR** – Cannonsville Res, DELA; **CG** – Carantouan Greenway, T Barton, TIOG; **ChenL** – Chenango L, T New Berlin, CHEN; **ChRB** – Chenango Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **CoPk** – Confluence P, Owego, TIOG; **CRes** – Cannonsville Res & outflow, DELA; **CVSP** – Chenango Valley SP, T Fenton, BROO; **DeLR** – Delaware Ri, Deposit, DELA; **DorP** – Dorchester P, Whitney Pt, BROO; **FMHW** – Franklin Mt Hawkwatch, DELA; **FMt** – Franklin Mt, T Davenport, DELA; **GrwP** – Greenwood CP, BROO; **HCP** – Hillcrest Pits, Port Dickenson, BROO; **LHNC** – Lime Hollow Nature Center, T Cortlandville, CORT; **LPSF** – Long Pd State Forest, CHEN; **MHL** – Michigan Hollow L, TIOG; **NSpM** – N Spencer Marsh, T Spencer, TIOG; **OnCBC** – Oneonta CBC, OTSE/DELA; **OtsL** – Otsego L, OTSE; **OwCBC** – Owego CBC, TIOG; **PRes** – Pepacton Res & outflow, DELA; **SCBC** – Sherburne CBC, CHEN (mostly); **SkaL** – Skaneateles L, L (SE), T Scott, CORT; **SStBS** – Spring Street Bird Sanctuary, BROO; **StPd** – Stupke Pd, T Cortlandville, CORT; **SusRB** - Susquehanna Ri, Greater Binghamton, BROO; **UL** – Upper Lisle, BROO, **ULCP** – Upper Lisle CP, T Triangle, BROO; **WPRes** – Whitney Pt Res, BROO.

**Snow Goose:** 400 ULCP 21 Feb. (DN,DW); 500 LHNC 22 Feb. (DG); 250 Binghamton (BROO) 23 Feb. (JW).

**Cackling Goose:** Deposit (DELA) 11 Dec. (LV); Brick Pd Wetland Pres (BROO) 1 Jan. (DG).

**Canada Goose:** 680 ULCP 5 Dec. (JG); 725 StPd 7 Dec. (DG); 700 CRes 12 Feb. (LV).

**Mute Swan:** 2 Deposit 20 Feb. (MS,HF); 15 SkaL 21 Feb. (MB).

**Trumpeter Swan:** 3 Deposit 12-27 Feb. (LV, mob); BPd & HCP 5 Dec - 25 Feb. (WK,mob).

**Tundra Swan:** 4 CG 24 Feb. (MB); 2 Deans Pd (CORT) 26 Feb. (CW).

**Wood Duck:** 2 Whitney Pt 18 Feb. (GW); 2 Marathon (CORT) 24 Feb. (CW); 4 Nichols Boat Launch (TIOG) 27 Feb. (DM).

**Northern Shoveler:** ChenL 3-15 Dec. (MD); 2 HCP 3 Jan. (DG).

**Gadwall:** 14 site max SkaL 23 Jan. (PH); 7 HCP 15 Feb. (JW); 6 CRes 27 Feb. (MM).

**American Wigeon:** 13 site max SkaL 21 Feb. (ST,LC); 6 HCP 18 Feb. (MR).

**Mallard:** 150 Owego (TIOG) 31 Jan. (DG); 172 Deposit 5 Feb. (LV); 200 CRes 13 Feb. (JHa).

**American Black Duck:** 40 site max 8 Dec. (JHo); 40 Oxford (CHEN) 28 Jan. (MD); 142 site max CRes 13 Feb. (LV).

**Northern Pintail:** 8 site max BPd 3 Jan. (DG); 3 Oxford 23 Feb. (MD); 6 Deposit 26 Feb. (LV).

**Green-winged Teal:** 2 CanL 30 Dec. (JR); 3 Downsville (DELA) 5 Feb. (JVG); 3 BPd 12 Feb. (DN).

**Canvasback:** SkaL 18 Jan. (PH); SkaL 22 Feb. (JM).

**Redhead:** 10 site max OtsL 7 Jan. (SS); 4 site max Downsville 29 Jan. (LV); 2600 region max SkaL 22 Feb. (JM).

**Ring-necked Duck:** 350 Allen Lk (OTSE) 6 Dec. (TB); 177 site max CRes 20 Feb. (LV); 122 SkaL 26 Feb. (CW).

**Greater Scaup:** 6 CanL 30 Dec. (JR); 8 CRes 1 Jan. (LV); 16 PRes 8 Jan. (LV).

**Lesser Scaup:** 18 site max SkaL 18 Jan. (PH); small numbers scattered throughout Region.

**White-winged Scoter:** PRes 5 Dec. (LV); HCP 24 Dec. (DN); ULCP 29 Jan. (DN,ATri); 4 SkaL 29 Jan. (PH).

**Long-tailed Duck:** 2 PRes 5 Dec. (LV); multiple reports of single individuals in BROO and OTSE counties.

**Bufflehead:** 16 Nanticoke L (BROO) 16 Dec. (VL); 36 site max CanL 10 Jan. (SS); 30 CRes 21 Jan. (MR).

**Common Goldeneye:** 38 CanL 30 Dec. (JR); 65 site max CanL 13 Jan (ML); 140 site max SkaL 18 Jan. (PH)

**Hooded Merganser:** reported in all counties in Region

**Common Merganser:** reported in all counties in Region

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 7 OtsL 17 Dec. (TB); PRes 8 Jan. (LV); 2 CG 23 Feb. (MB).

**Ruddy Duck:** UCLP 28 Dec. (DN); HCP 14-Jan. (mob); Downsville 15 Jan. (LV).

**Wild Turkey:** many reports throughout entire Region.

**Ruffed Grouse:** scattered reports through entire Region.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** 2 Cortland (CORT) 29 Dec. (BD); 3 Michigan Hill State Forest (TIOG) 1 Feb. (SD); multiple reports of single birds in BROO county.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** HCP 18 Dec. (DG); CanL 30 Dec. (JR); Chugnut R Walk (BROO) 21 Jan. (MJ).

**Horned Grebe:** CanL 1 Jan. (ML); SkaL 21 Feb. (JC,PH).

**Red-necked Grebe:** ULCP 28-30 Dec. (DN,ATri,VI,JHo).

**American Coot:** Papish Pd (CORT) 12 Dec. (CW); 82 site max OtsL 7 Jan. (SS) present in numbers at this location throughout period; HCP 19 Feb. (JHo); StPd 22-26 Feb. (ST,LC,DG).

**Killdeer:** Kilroy Rd. (CHEN) 16 Dec. (MD); Huizinga Farms (TIOG) 21 Feb. (DG); MHL 22 Feb. (SC); HCP 26 Feb. (DN).

**Spotted Sandpiper:** DorP (BROO) 28 Dec. (GW), very late.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 4 BPd 26 Dec. (DN).

**Ring-billed Gull:** 350 site max Delaware Cty Waste Facility (DELA) 5 Dec. (LV); 227 site max SkaL 18 Dec. (MY,BM); 220 William Beers Rd (DELA) 2 Jan. (CS,SB).

**Herring Gull:** 40 site max UCLP 28 Dec. (ATri); 45 site max SkaL 21 Feb. (ST,LC).

**Iceland Gull:** Delaware County Solid Waste Facility 5 Feb. (LV).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** 2 Cortland Gravel Pits (CORT) 26 Feb. (CW).

**Red-throated Loon:** CannR 5 Dec. (LV); HCP 7 Jan. (RA,DN,JW,DW); DorP 8 Jan. (GW).

**Common Loon:** 2 CanL 17 Dec. (TB); scattered reports of single birds throughout Region.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** OtsL 10 Dec. (SS); DorP 10-24 Dec. (DA,DN,GW); Oneonta (OTSE) 15 Jan. (MG); Deposit 16 Jan. (LV).

**Great Blue Heron:** scattered reports in all counties in Region.

**Turkey Vulture:** UCLP 21 Feb. (DN,DW); 7 Endwell (BROO) 21 Feb. (MPH); a few other scattered reports of single birds in BROO.

**Golden Eagle:** scattered reports of single birds throughout Region.

**Northern Harrier:** numerous reports of mostly single birds throughout Region.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** reported in all counties in Region.

**Cooper's Hawk:** reported in all counties in Region.

**Northern Goshawk:** ChenL 3 Dec. (MD); Oxford 9 Dec. (MD); Richford (TIOG) 11 Jan. (DM).

**Bald Eagle:** common throughout entire Region.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** scattered reports of single birds in BROO, CHEN, DELA and TIOG counties.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 2 Meredith 29 Jan. (LV); 2 Kilroy Rd (CHEN) 1 Feb. MD); 2 E. River Rd (TIOG) 13 Feb. (DG); many other reports throughout entire Region.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** scattered reports in BROO, CHEN, OTSE and DELA.

**Great Horned Owl:** scattered reports in all counties in Region.

**Snowy Owl:** ill bird captured in New Berlin (CHEN) on 1 Jan. (KD). The bird was brought to a rehab center and subsequently brought to Cornell. Happily the bird recovered from dehydration, an injured wing, and rat poison and was released on the finder's farm in Otsego Cty on 31 Jan. (Pictures of release on eBird). A tough bird indeed.

**Barred Owl:** scattered reports in all counties in Region.

**Short-eared Owl:** Center Lisle 10 Dec. (DG); 2 Newark Valley TIOG 10 Dec, 3-8 Jan. (ATro, WB, DG, DM).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Hancock (DELA) 8 Jan. (LV); Deposit 22 Feb. (LV).

**Belted Kingfisher:** reported in all counties in Region.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** LPSF 21 Dec. (ATri); Fly Creek (OTSE) 24 Dec. (DM); Bainbridge 30 Jan (RB); cluster of reports in Binghamton area as well.

**Northern Flicker:** reported in all counties in Region. Majority in BROO and TIOG.

**American Kestrel:** reported throughout entire Region.

**Merlin:** DorP 1 Dec. (WK); Cortland 6 Dec. (DG); Springfield Ctr (OTSE) 13 Jan (ML); other reports of single birds in BROO and TIOG counties.

**Peregrine Falcon:** 2 Region max Binghamton 1 Jan – 6 Feb. (WK); reports of single birds in CHEN, CORT, OTSE and TIOG.

**Northern Shrike:** LPSF 20 Dec. (MD); Vestal (BROO) 28 Dec.-16 Jan. (MJ, mob); BMF 6 Jan (ATro); ULSP 11 Jan. (GW); Cincinnatus (CORT) 9 Feb. (SD).

**Fish Crow:** Lisle 1 Jan. (DW); many reports in BROO and TIOG along SusRB.

**Horned Lark:** 100 Region max Currie Valley Dairy 26 Feb. (ST,LC); reported in all counties in Region.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** BPd 13 Jan. (DN).

**Cedar Waxwing:** 200 Region max Whitney Pt. (BROO) 1 Jan. (JW); many other reports throughout entire Region.

**Winter Wren:** 2 BUNP 18 Dec. (SW); 2 SkaL 18 Dec. (BM,MY); 2 Downsville 12 Feb. (LV).

**Marsh Wren:** BPd 20 Dec. - 2 Jan. (DN,mob).

**Brown Thrasher:** Chenango Forks (CHEN) 8 Feb. (LH).

**Northern Mockingbird:** BMF throughout period (ATro); StPd 21 Dec.-26 Feb. (ST,LC,DG); W. Newark (TIOG) 15 Jan. (MJ); Richford (TIOG) 23 Jan. (JM).

**Hermit Thrush:** BUNP 14-18 Dec. (SW,BJ); Victory St. Marsh (BROO) 4 Jan. (DN); Johnson City (BROO) 5 Jan. (GW); Anson Rd. (BROO) 9 Jan. (MJ).

**American Pipit:** Binghamton 19-27 Jan. (DW,GW,mob).

**Evening Grosbeak:** S. Otselic (CHEN) 16 Jan. (MF); Franklin (DELA) 18 Feb. (JH); Papish Pd 26 Feb. (CW).

**Common Redpoll:** Scott (CORT) 20 Feb. (PH); 2 Hobart (DELA) 20 Feb. (LL); 3 High Vista Pres. (CORT) 26 Feb. (CW).

**Red Crossbill:** 14 site max Beaver Dam State Forest (TIOGA) 12 Jan. (WB); 15 Region max Pitcher Springs State Forest 13 Feb. (DN); many, widespread reports 8 Dec – 26 Feb, involving all counties with the exception of OTSE, possibly nesting. *intro*.

**Pine Siskin:** reported in small numbers in all counties in Region.

**Lapland Longspur:** Huizinga Farm 9 Feb. (DM).

**Snow Bunting:** 27 Delancey (DELA) 29 Jan. (LV); 30 Richfield Springs (OTSE) 1 Feb. (AS); 50 Currie Valley Dairy (CORT) 26 Feb. (ST,LC).

**Chipping Sparrow:** 3 MHL 28 Feb. (WB).

**Field Sparrow:** Downsville 2-22 Jan. (LV); ULCP 13 Jan. (DW).

**Fox Sparrow:** Oneonta (OTSE) 16 Dec. (SB); 2 Stoller Hill Rd (OTSE) 16 Feb.

(SS); 2 Georgetown (CHEN) 19 Feb. (VH); Scott 28 Feb. (PH).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Owego (TIOG) 1 Jan (DG); MHL 4 Jan. (SC).

**Savannah Sparrow:** MHL 20 Jan.-6 Feb. (SC,DG).

**Eastern Towhee:** Delhi 10 Jan. (ER); Rogers Environmental Ctr. 22 Jan. (JP); LHNC 1-4 Feb. (DG,PH); McGraw (CORT) 18-20 Feb. (DH).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Lisle (BROO) 20-22 Jan. (DN, JH, mob); Bainbridge (CHEN) 20-22 Jan. (RB).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** scattered reports in all counties in Region.

**Rusty Blackbird:** Mead Pd (CHEN) 18 Dec. (ATri); 2 Sherburne (CHEN) 18 Jan. (MD); Wilson Hollow Rd (DELA) 20 Feb. (LV); 15 site max LHNC 28 Feb. (PH).

**Common Grackle:** scattered reports in all counties in Region.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** Newark Valley (TIOG) 4 Dec. (CK); Marathon (CORT) 24 Feb. (CW).

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## REGION 5—ONEIDA LAKE BASIN

**David Wheeler**

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Winter 2021-2022 started with the second warmest December on record. The average maximum temperature of 44.4° F was a whopping 7.3° above normal, with the average minimum of 31.6° an equally-impressive 7.9° above. Only two days failed to crack the freezing mark, while 14 nights never dropped below, both eight fewer than expected. Rainfall was typical but snow was 21.1" less than the average of 30.6", the month's total of only 9.5" making it the eighth lowest ever. As one might expect, half-hardy species lingered through the month. Only seven days were partly-sunny or better, the overcast contributing to mild conditions. Winter would arrive in earnest for the month of January with an average maximum of 29.6°, 2.1° below normal. Skies were clearer than usual with 16 days partly-sunny or better, this leading to cold, clear overnights whose average minimum was only 9.5°, 7.0° below expected. Ten nights dropped below 0° compared to four typical of the month. Snow continued to be scarce with only 23.5" versus the 34.0" norm. February featured a return to warmer temps with the average maximum of 38.4° being 4.8° above normal. Average low for the month was very typical at 17.1°, likely a result of 10 days that were at least partly clear. Eleven days and 24 nights were below freezing, both two less than expected. A meager 20.9" inches of snow completed the season, leaving it 41" off the typical pace. Rainfall was average over the period.

With open fields and mild temperatures early in the season, geese took their time moving through our area. On 5 December Gregg Dashnau found a **Ross's Goose** at Lake Neatahwanta in Fulton, which at the time held a good number of waterfowl including many gulls, geese (Canada and Snow), and Common

Mergansers. The mostly snow-free cut corn fields on Ditch Bank Road produced a **Greater White-fronted Goose** for David Wheeler on 12 January amidst Canada Geese, European Starlings, a few crows, but no gulls. Counts of American Wigeon at Woodman Pond were excellent through December with Richard Cohen following the action with frequent checklists. Decent numbers of Northern Pintail continued there as well, while arriving on the spring end of the season with 300 at the Loop Road floodland on 23 February. Unusual January Green-winged Teal were reported by Wheeler and Dashnau from Verona Beach and Fulton, with Wheeler noting that 5 January was late for an entirely-open Oneida Lake. Mickey Scilingo and Martin Mau found a **Harlequin Duck** at Nine Mile Point on 20 February. King Eider was not reported this period and no dark-winged scoters lingered beyond mid-December. Grebes of all kinds were scarce, possibly a result of mild conditions to our north. Last but not least decent groups of American Coot were present on Onondaga and Skaneateles Lakes at least up to January's abrupt weather change.

The winter gull season was unextraordinary but for a **Slaty-backed Gull** found at the Madison County landfill on 30 December by David Wheeler, his third find of this rare Asian vagrant in the Region. It became a new year-bird two days later but was seen only intermittently on the landfill pond (where it could be easily picked out) versus the high garbage mountain (where it could not). This no doubt disappointed many observers but please remember that the only viewing is from the office parking area on Buyea Road. Realizing the bird should be visiting Ditch Bank and roosting on Oneida Lake west of Lewis Point, Wheeler checked these spots repeatedly and found the bird on the small ice shelf just east of North Main Street Road Extension late in the day on 5 January. This confirmed the bird's daily commute between Oneida Lake and the landfill, via Ditch Bank. It was last noted on 12 January. With plenty of open water in December, small flocks of Bonaparte's Gulls continued with 35 noted from Sandy Pond by Matt Brown on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Oneida Lake also got in on the action but Onondaga missed out. Our usual six species of wintering gulls were noted from typical locations throughout the period. Brown found three Dunlin at Sandy on 14 December plus a Greater Yellowlegs on the 7<sup>th</sup>, both late dates. A presumed spring-migrant Killdeer was found on 24 February near Oswego by Robert Whitman.

A Black-crowned Night-Heron was noted at the Syracuse Inner Harbor by Gregg Dashnau on 2 December. The species has been known to linger in the area. Did this bird stay? Black Vultures continue to have a winter presence, with three noted from Jamesville and four in Little Falls. The Jamesville spot is the Region's most reliable wintering location for Turkey Vultures also, with 41 noted on 15 January by Joe Brin and Renee Kittleman. Mike Tetlow observed nine over Fair Haven on 30 December, an unusual date and location for such a good number moving along the lakeshore. Wintering or migrating Golden Eagles were noted from five locations, all from Madison County and points east. Possibly-resident Northern Goshawks were observed several places, plus a likely wanderer buzzed Matt Brown's feeders in Pulaski. Bald Eagles again wintered in numbers at the

south end of Onondaga Lake with 76 counted by Martin Mau on 2 February. Will the new trail to Murphy's Island change things for them? A first-of-season Red-shouldered Hawk passed Derby Hill on 19 February. Single Snowy Owls were reported from usual locations, while a Long-eared Owl was found in Onondaga Lake Park on 28 January by Aidan Perkins. Dashnau also found one at Three Rivers on 24 February. A pair of Short-eared Owls was found by Tammy Richer on Burnet Road in Clay on 15 February. The houses and fields on either side of the road are slated for destruction and development into a massive industrial park anchored by the recently-announced Micron chip-manufacturing facility. Nothing has been announced but hopefully something can be saved as part of damage-mitigation plans that sometimes accompany such projects.

As noted in the weather summary, an exceptionally mild December led to good numbers of lingering half-hardy types such as Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Northern Flicker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, American Robin, White-crowned Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Eastern Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. There were better than usual counts and more reported locations for virtually all on this list, at least up to the January deep freeze. While birding the Andrews Road feeder canal on 29 December, a long-known hotspot for lingering birds, Marshall Iliff found a surprising 10 Winter Wrens. White-crowned Sparrows continue to be found more often in sparrow flocks, with 14 seen in Baldwinsville on 18 February by Joe Brin and Renee Kittleman.

It was not a huge winter for irruptive finches. Jonathan Kresge found the only Evening Grosbeak of the season on 12 December in McKeever. Drew Weber found a Pine Grosbeak at Green Lakes State Park on 18 December which stuck around for others to enjoy. Deborah Dohne added one from Onondaga Lake Park's west shore on the 19<sup>th</sup> and another there on the 24<sup>th</sup> was seen by Alex Thor. The Region desperately needs more crabapple trees to hold the ones that do get here. Winter Purple Finches continue to be scarce in the lowlands of the Oneida Lake Basin. Small numbers of Common Redpolls were reported from various locations including 50 at Sterling Nature Center seen by Jim D'Angelo on 31 December. Bill Purcell found Red Crossbills in Atwell which were joined by smaller numbers of the White-winged variety and proved reliable for other observers. Crossbills were also seen at various locations in northern Oneida and Herkimer Counties. Pine Siskins were scarce away from traditional strongholds.

Lapland Longspurs were found in three locations and only 1-2 birds. The first conspicuous flocks of Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles were noted on 22 February, a typical spring arrival date for these. Northern Shrike and Merlin reports were scattered around the Region throughout the period. An Orange-crowned Warbler was photographed by Pam Staves at a feeder in Manlius on 31 January. Though good numbers of the species can be found wintering on the Atlantic coast, this is only the second Regional record for winter and the first for the deep-winter months of January/February. Richard Cohen had good looks at a record late Common Yellowthroat at Woodman Pond on 8 January. Yellow-

rumps were reported from 15 locations, substantially more than usual. None of the five MOTUS stations in the Region picked up any tagged birds during the winter period.

This season a total of 138 species and one hybrid was reported, which is one above the recent 10-year average for the Region. Highlights of the season included: Ross's Goose, Greater White-fronted Goose, Harlequin Duck, **Slaty-backed Gull**, Black Vulture, **Pine Grosbeak**, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, and Common Yellowthroat.

Winter 2021-2022 produced 53,589 eBird records for Region 5, and were processed by Swan Swan Hummingbird v5.5. Reports were submitted by 548 people and the Contributor list assembled as described in previous reports.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**ADK** – Adirondacks, n. HERK; **BW** – Baltimore Woods, Marcellus; **BLNC** – Beaver L Nature Center, Baldwinsville; **Brew** – Oneida L at Brewerton; **BRH** – Bishop Road Hawk Watch, T Richland; **Bville** – Baldwinsville; **Const** – Oneida L at Constantia; **DB** – Ditch Bank Rd & vicinity, T Sullivan/Lenox, MADI; **DC** – Deer Creek Marsh, T Richland; **DH** – Derby Hill, T Mexico; **DL** – Delta L; **Dolge** – Dolgeville, HERK; **FH** – Fair Haven, Little Sodus Bay, and West Barrier Bar; **Fult** – Fulton area including Oswego Ri, Indian Pt, L Neatahwanta; **GB** – Great Bear Rec Area, Fulton; **GLSP** – Green Lakes SP, Fayetteville; **HF** – Highland Forest CP; **HI** – Howland I WMA, CAYU; **HM** – Hamlin Marsh, Clay; **HV** – Happy Valley WMA, Parish; **KK** – Kindred Kingdom Wildlife Center, Pennellville; **LH** – Labrador Hollow Unique Area; **LOnt** – L Ontario; **LoopR** – Loop Rd,

Montezuma NWR, CAYU; **MCL** – Madison County Landfill; **MexPt** – Mexico Pt SP; **MH** – Morgan Hill State Forest, Fabius; **MSI** – Madison St Impoundment, Hamilton; **MW** – McKoons Road Wetland, Colombia Center, s. HERK; **OakC** – Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse; **OF** – Old Forge; **OLC** – Onondaga L Creekwalk; **OneiL** – Oneida L; **OnonL** – Onondaga L; **OLP** – Onondaga L P (east and west shore); **OSP** – Oneida Shores P, Brewerton; **OswH** – Oswego Harbor; **Phx** – Phoenix dam area; **PPt** – Oneida L at Phillips Pt, W Monroe; **PSS** – Peter Scott Swamp, Phoenix; **RCFS** – Rice Creek Field Station, Oswego; **RRP** – Radisson Ri P, Three Rivers confluence, Phoenix; **SBP** – Sunset Bay P, Scriba; **SFNS** – Spring Farm Nature Sanctuary, Kirkland; **Sithe** – trails at Independence Park, formerly Sithe Energy, Scriba; **SH** – Southern Highlands of ONON & MADI; **SHTF** – Sky High Turf Farm, Chittenango; **Skan** – Skaneateles; **SNC** – Sterling Nature Center, Sterling; **SP** – Sandy Pd and vicinity; **SSSP** – Selkirk Shores SP; **SVB** – Sylvan & Verona Beach; **Syr** – Syracuse; **TNP** – Tuscarora Nature P, MADI; **TR** – Three Rivers WMA, Lysander; **UM** – Utica Marsh; **VBSP** – Verona Beach SP; **WH** – Whiskey Hollow, Memphis; **WP** – Woodman Pd, Hamilton.

**Snow Goose:** max est 2000 Brewerton 19 Dec; few reps late Dec – mid Feb; arr 250 Syr 22 Feb.

**Ross's Goose:** Fulton 5 Dec (GDa); only rep.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** DB 12 Jan (DWh); only rep.

**Cackling Goose:** rep 6 locs 4 Dec – 5 Jan.

**Canada Goose:** max est 2000 Chittenango 8 Jan & WP var dates Dec & Van Buren 3 Dec.

**Mute Swan:** most reps OnonL & FH; max 86 FH 28 Jan.

**Trumpeter Swan:** small groups expected locs; max 10 Brew 12 Jan.

**Tundra Swan:** 200 Brew 9 Jan; max 250 Brew 1 Dec.

**Wood Duck:** several recs var locs incl Webster Pd; arr & max 8 Webster Pd 21 Feb.

**Northern Shoveler:** OnonL 26 Dec; Brew 28 Dec & 4 Jan; SVB 30 Dec; 2 OswH 11 Feb; arr 2 LoopR 23 Feb.

**Gadwall:** max 17 OnonL 7 Feb.

**American Wigeon:** small nums rep var locs thru; max 65 WP 4 Dec.

**Mallard:** max 340 OnonL 16 Jan.

**American Black Duck:** max 50 OnonL 19 Jan.

**Northern Pintail:** arr & max 300 LoopR 23 Feb.

**Green-winged Teal:** 4 DB 16 Dec; 2 WP 20 Dec; SVB 5 Jan; Fult 19 Jan & 27 Feb.

**Canvasback:** max 5 OnonL 21 Feb.

**Redhead:** max est 1200 OnonL 21 Dec.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max est 900 WP 16, 27 Dec.

**Greater Scaup:** max 500 OswH 16 Feb.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 90 OnonL 27 Feb.

**Greater/Lesser Scaup:** max 500 OneiL 5 Dec.

**Harlequin Duck:** Nine Mile Pt 20 Feb (MSc, MMa, MBr).

**Surf Scoter:** SP 5 Dec (MBr); only rep.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 104 Nine Mile Pt 30 Jan.

**Black Scoter:** 7 DH 3 Dec; 2 OnonL 5 Dec; 5 OneiL 13 Dec; only reps.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 600 SP 5 Dec.

**Bufflehead:** max 72 SSSP 6 Dec.

**Common Goldeneye:** max 325 FH 1 Feb.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 98 Eaton Br Res 29 Dec.

**Common Merganser:** est 2100 OnonL 8 Jan; max est 3000-5000 OneiL 5 Jan.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 300 SP 7 Dec.

**Ruddy Duck:** small nums var locs thru 1 Jan; max 15 WP 1 Dec.

**Wild Turkey:** max 110 Blossvale 1 Jan.

**Ruffed Grouse:** small nums var locs.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** small nums var locs.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** only a few reps; max 2 OnonL 18 Dec, 8, 9 Jan.

**Horned Grebe:** only 8 reps, none after 9 Jan; max 2 DH 2 Dec.

**Red-necked Grebe:** only 5 reps; max 2 OnonL 9 Dec.

**Rock Pigeon:** widespread; max 300 Fult 26 Dec.

**Mourning Dove:** widespread; max 80 Mannheim HERK 27 Dec.

**American Coot:** max 35 SkanL 2 Jan & OnonL 26 Dec.

**Killdeer:** arr Oswego 24 Feb; only rep.

**Dunlin:** SP 5, 7 Dec (MBr); last 3 SP 14 Dec (MBr); only reps.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** last SP 7 Dec (MBr); only rep.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** max 35 SP 5 Dec; last 3 SVB 1 Jan.

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 1300 OswH 26 Feb.

**Herring Gull:** max est 2500 MCL 8 Jan.

**Iceland Gull:** max 10 DB 23 Jan & IH 25 Feb.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** singles var locs throughout period; max 2 DB 2 Feb.

**SLATY-BACKED GULL:** MCL 30 Dec – 12 Jan (DWh, ph); OneIL 5 Jan, same bird after roost flight (DWh, ph); *intro*.

**Glaucous Gull:** max 2 DB 19 Feb.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 83 IH 18 Jan, 13 Feb.

**Red-throated Loon:** max 5 OswH 5 Dec.

**Common Loon:** max 4 OSP 4 Dec & OnonL 30 Dec & OswH 13 Jan.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 86 OnonL 28 Dec.

**Great Blue Heron:** max 4 OnonL 7 Feb.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** IH 2 Dec (GDa); only rep.

**Black Vulture:** known locs incl 1-3 Jamesville 14 Jan thru (mob) & 4 Little Falls 28 Dec (KT<sub>o</sub>); 3 Pompey 15 Feb (MaD); Deansboro 9 Feb (KSk).

**Turkey Vulture:** group known loc Jamesville thru incl 41 max 15 Jan; 9 FH 30 Dec (MT<sub>e</sub>), good num for date/loc; scattered singles/small groups var locs/dates thru.

**Golden Eagle:** SE HERK 3 locs 1 Dec, 3 Jan (EFr); Caz 27 Dec, 15 Jan (JKI); Bouckville 4 Jan (DDo); DL 13 Feb (KSk).

**Northern Harrier:** max 3 Clinton 16 Dec.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** singles var locs thru.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 1-2 widespread thru.

**Northern Goshawk:** SE MADI 29 Dec (JBr, RKi), 11 Feb (MiD, FVo); Pulaski 31 Jan (MBr); Manlius 3 Feb (CSp).

**Bald Eagle:** 47 Fulton 26 Dec (GDa), good num for loc; max 76 OnonL 2 Feb.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** arr DH 19 Feb; 3 other recs lack doc.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** widespread; max 13 Lincoln 30 Dec.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** singles var locs thru; max 5 Richland 23 Feb.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** singles/pairs typical locs.

**Great Horned Owl:** widespread resident.

**Snowy Owl:** singles typ locs thru 6 Feb.

**Barred Owl:** widespread resident.

**Long-eared Owl:** OLP 28 Jan, 5 Feb (APE); TR 24 Feb (GDa).

**Short-eared Owl:** OLP 9 Dec; Wash Mills 18 Jan; Clay 15 Feb (TRi), unusual loc.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Cassville 6 Feb (ISh).

**Belted Kingfisher:** 1-2 winter near open water; max 4 UM 31 Dec.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** widespread resident.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** scattered reps, more than usual winter; max 4 Sullivan 28 Jan.

**Downy Woodpecker:** widespread resident.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** widespread resident.

**Northern Flicker:** good num winter; max 13 TR 21 Dec.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** widespread resident.

**American Kestrel:** singles var locs thru.

**Merlin:** singles var locs thru.

**Peregrine Falcon:** singles/pairs typ locs.

**Northern Shrike:** singles var locs thru.

**Blue Jay:** max 34 Georgetown 19 Feb.

**American Crow:** max est 3000 Syr 29 Dec.

**Fish Crow:** max 6 Syr 1 Jan; reps typ locs.  
**Common Raven:** max 6 var locs/dates; widespread reps.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** widespread resident; max 28 sev locs.

**Tufted Titmouse:** widespread resident except N HERK & N ONEI.

**Horned Lark:** max 50 Fabius 26 Feb.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** Kirkville 18 Dec; last Bville 29 Dec; only reps.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 1-4 var locs thru; max 9 Tully 29 Dec.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 75 Manheim 6 Jan.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** small groups typ locs; max 45 Earlville 11 Feb.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** widespread resident.

**Brown Creeper:** small numbs typ locs; max 4 HI 20 Dec.

**Winter Wren:** singles var locs thru 1 Jan; Jordan 20 Jan; Canastota 22 Jan; Sullivan 2-3 Feb; Oneida 27 Feb; max 10 DeWitt 29 Dec (MII), loc known for half-hardies.

**Carolina Wren:** small numbs typ locs, mostly ONON.

**Gray Catbird:** Minoa 18 Dec; Oswego 19 Dec; Hannibal 19 Dec; SNC 28 Jan; only reps.

**Northern Mockingbird:** singles/pairs typ locs, mostly ONON.

**European Starling:** max est 16000 7 Dec.

**Eastern Bluebird:** widespread; max 45 Cazenovia at mealworm feeder 29 Jan (CRA).

**Hermit Thrush:** reps 10 typ locs 18 Dec – 9 Feb.

**American Robin:** max 124 RCFS 10 Dec.

**House Sparrow:** flocks widespread resident.

**Evening Grosbeak:** McKeever 12 Dec (JKr), only rep.

**Pine Grosbeak:** GLSP 18-21 Dec (DWe); OLP 19 Dec (DDo) & 24 Dec (Ath), only reps.

**House Finch:** widespread resident; max 24 BLNC 7 Feb.

**Purple Finch:** small numbs typ locs in Reg highlands; max 54 Dolgeville 13 Feb.

**Common Redpoll:** Cassville 3, 8 Dec; max 50 SNC 31 Dec (JDA); small numbs var locs thru.

**Red Crossbill:** reps MH & ADKs N ONEI & N HERK; max 28 Atwell 28 Jan (BPu).

**White-winged Crossbill:** reps ADKs N ONEI & N HERK; max 8 Forestport 29 Jan (TSh).

**Pine Siskin:** small numbs typ locs in Reg highlands; max 30 McConnellsburg 20 Feb.

**American Goldfinch:** flocks common & widespread; max 80 Dolgeville 4 Feb.

**Lapland Longspur:** Skaneateles 25 Jan (JBr, RKi); 2 Jordan 13 Feb (DDo); Fabius 16 Feb (ABu), only reps.

**Snow Bunting:** flocks typ locs thru; max 200 Marcellus 18 Feb.

**Chipping Sparrow:** Syr 16 Dec; Ilion 13 Feb; 2 Waterville 21 Feb; only reps.

**Field Sparrow:** OLP 20 Dec; SNC 26 Dec; Jordan 31 Jan – 19 Feb, only reps.

**American Tree Sparrow:** max 94 HI 20 Dec.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 56 Dolgeville 27 Dec.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 1-6 few locs thru, incr as winterer in Reg; max 14 Baldwinsville 18 Feb (JBr), large num for date, *intro*.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 36 OLP 18 Dec.

**Song Sparrow:** max 18 OLP 18 Dec.

**Swamp Sparrow:** reps 10 locs thru; max 4 Canastota 23 Jan.

**Eastern Towhee:** rep 7 locs thru.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** singles, small flocks typ locs thru; noticeable flocks arr var locs 22 Feb; max 170 Verona 22 Feb.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 150 Baldwinsville 22 Feb.

**Rusty Blackbird:** OLP 16 Dec; Jordan 30 Dec; Pville 8 Jan; Cazenovia 20 Jan; Oswego 25 Feb; Pulaski 26 Feb thru.

**Common Grackle:** singles 10 locs thru; noticeable flocks arr var locs 22 Feb; max 60 Chittenango 25 Feb.

**blackbird sp:** max 3000 HI 12 Dec (BP<sub>a</sub>), typ loc but good num for date.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** Manlius 31 Jan (PSt, ph), 2<sup>nd</sup> Reg rec for winter and 1<sup>st</sup> outside Dec, *intro*.

**Common Yellowthroat:** WP 8 Jan (RC<sub>o</sub>), rec late, well described.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 1-4 rep 15 locs var dates, more than usual; max 6 Bville 29 Dec.

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## REGION 6—ST. LAWRENCE

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Winter alternated between mild and seasonably cold, with few lengthy spells of either. December was mostly mild, with a mean temperature in Watertown of 31.7° F, which is 4.4° above normal. High temperatures topped 50° on six days in December, reaching as high as 63° on 17 December, the warmest day of the winter. Mild weather continued into the new year, with a high of 50° on 2 January, but most of that month was cold, as indicated by a mean monthly temperature of 10.6°, which is 9° below normal. Temperatures dropped below zero on the last 11 nights of January, including the season's low of -19° on 30 January, but daytime temperatures during this period often rose into the 20s or even 30s. Temperatures moderated in February, and that month's mean temperature of 21.0° was within 0.3° of normal. About 3.5" of precipitation fell in each of December and January, both totals within 0.3" of normal, but February's 4.6" inches of precipitation was about 2.1" higher than average. Watertown's 36.9" of snow in February was just a couple of inches shy of the total for December and January combined.

Snow Geese barely showed up in Region 6 during the fall, but up to 14,000 were on the St. Lawrence River at Coles Creek State Park during early December, and on 5 December two **Ross's Goose** were among them. Trumpeter Swans continue to increase at all seasons, as evidenced by a Regionally high count of 42 at Wilson Hill WMA on 16 December. Unfortunately, Mute Swans are also increasing in the Region, most noticeably during winter along the St. Lawrence River near Wellesley Island, where 207 were counted on 2 February.

Despite the presence of open water throughout the winter, waterfowl numbers seemed quite poor along the Lake Ontario shore, and ducks were scarce at all but a few favored locations. However, dabbling ducks lingered in unusually high numbers at and near Whalen Park on the St. Lawrence River into early January. For instance, counts of more than about five pintail are exceedingly rare anywhere

in Region 6 during winter, but as many as 127 were at Whalen Park to at least 8 January. Other dabblers present in higher than usual numbers included Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, and Green-winged Teal. During the mid-winter waterfowl count on 16 January one each first-winter male **Harlequin Duck** was at Tibbetts Point and Lisbon Beach, more than 60 miles apart, the only reports of the season of this Regionally rare duck. The season's only Barrow's Goldeneye, a female, was at Hawkins Point in early January.

For the second consecutive year white-winged gulls put in a dismal showing, with just one Iceland Gull and two Glaucous Gulls. A Little Gull at Pillar Point 1 December and a Lesser Black-backed Gull on the St. Lawrence River in Massena 31 December were the only other noteworthy gulls. Gull numbers seemed remarkably low on the St. Lawrence River for most of the winter, but good numbers of Herring Gulls and a few Ring-billed Gulls were on Lake Ontario through the season.

Raptor numbers were mostly down from the previous, very good winter, but many species were still present in average or higher numbers. Northern Harrier was especially down, with maximum counts of no more than three on Point Peninsula and Cape Vincent, where as many as 22 were seen daily last winter. Maximum counts for Rough-legged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Short-eared Owl were roughly half that of the previous winter. The season's only Northern Goshawk, an immature, was on Point Peninsula on 21 January. A **Black Vulture** over Adams and a Golden Eagle over Leray were the only reports for each species, both occurring on 20 February. Black Vultures are rarely reported in Region 6 but probably occur more frequently than reports suggest given increases elsewhere in northern New York and Ontario.

It was a good winter for half-hardies, perhaps not surprising given the mild start to the winter. At least five Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, three Winter Wrens, and four Hermit Thrushes continue a string of winters each species has been documented, suggesting that they now occur annually in winter. This was also the fifth consecutive winter that Gray Catbird has been observed; during the previous decade catbirds were reported no more than once every two or three winters. The six Red-headed Woodpeckers that successfully overwintered at Fort Drum represents a seasonal high count for Region 6, but was not unexpected given this year's bumper acorn crop.

The season's tally of three warbler species was certainly the highest Region 6 winter tally in the last 20 years and likely is unprecedented. Completely unexpected was a Black-throated Green Warbler Dick Brouse and Rachel Lewis found on Point Peninsula **14 January** and that remained to at least **19 January**. Somewhat less surprising but still unexpected was a Common Yellowthroat on Fort Drum 5 January that was not found again. The extensive red cedar stands near Lake Ontario and more locally along the St. Lawrence River included many cedars loaded with berries, so the presence of scattered small groups of Yellow-rumped Warblers was not a surprise. However, it is not clear whether these birds made it through the winter, as large flocks of European Starlings apparently

decimated the berry crops in many cedar stands, and by mid-February few cedar berries seemed to be present and Yellow-rumped Warblers were hard to find.

Crossbill numbers in southeast St. Lawrence County were disappointing given the reportedly historic irruption reported elsewhere in the Adirondacks. Red Crossbills and White-winged Crossbills were observed in several places and almost certainly nested in the Region, but at most locations were only seen as flyovers or obviously transient individuals, and none were found in many places where nesting has been confirmed in previous years. Cone crops seemed mostly poor in the northwest Adirondacks, especially north of State Highway 3, and other than a couple of locations near Wanakena there seemed to be little evidence that either crossbill nested in Region 6. Among other finches, Pine Siskin and Common Redpoll were widespread in low numbers, and there were just three reports of Evening Grosbeak and six reports of Pine Grosbeak.

The 123 species reported this winter is a little more than four higher than the most recent 10-year mean. The abundance of half-hardies and presence of seasonally rare songbirds like Black-throated Green Warbler and Common Yellowthroat accounted for the relatively high total. There were no truly outstanding rarities, with Harlequin Duck, Ross's Gull, and Black Vulture representing the rarest species of the season. Perhaps the season's big disappointment was relative scarcity of crossbills given the widespread nesting event documented throughout much of the Adirondacks.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**BI** – Barnhart I, T Massena, STLA; **CCSP** – Coles Creek SP; **CV** – T Cape Vincent; **FD** – Fort Drum Military Reservation, JEFF & LEWI; **FL** – Fisher's Landing, T Alexandria; **GPSP** – Grass Pt SP; **HH** – Henderson Harbor; **HP** – Hawkins Pt, T Massena; **JEFF** – Jefferson County; **KC** – Kelsey Creek, T Watertown; **LB** – Lisbon Beach, T Lisbon; **LBSF** – Lonesome Bay State Forest; **LSB** – Little Sucker Brook P, T Waddington; **LWMA** – Lakeview WMA; **MP** – Montario Pt, T Ellisburg; **PiPt** – Pillar Pt, JEFF; **PtPen** – Pt Peninsula, T Lyme, JEFF; **RLT** – Richard's Landing Trail, T Massena; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, T Massena; **RRT** – Remington Recreation Trail, T Canton; **RWSP** – Robert G. Wehle SP; **SBSP** – Southwick Beach SP; **SLR** – St. Lawrence Ri; **SLU** – St. Lawrence University; **SnB** – Snowshoe Bay, Stony Pt, T Henderson; **STLA** – St. Lawrence County; **StPt** – Stony Pt, T Henderson, JEFF; **TP** – Tibbetts Pt; **ULLWMA** – Upper and Lower

Lakes WMA, T Canton; **WBSP** – Westcott Beach SP; **WHWMA** – Wilson Hill WMA; **WP** – Whalen P, T Louisville.

**Snow Goose:** max 14000 CCSP 5 Dec; scarce after 20 Dec; last 67 T Rutland 7 Jan.

**Ross's Goose:** 2 CCSP 5 Dec (JBo).

**Mute Swan:** max 207 GPSP 2 Feb (JBo); high, increasing.

**Trumpeter Swan:** max 42 WHWMA 16 Dec (JBo), increasing.

**Tundra Swan:** max 255 PilPt 18 Dec.

**Wood Duck:** Black Ri Fishing site T Watertown 8 Dec (B. Miller) only report.

**Northern Shoveler:** 4 WP 5 Dec (JBo) only report.

**Gadwall:** max 62 RLT 31 Dec high for winter; last 6 RMSP 22 Jan.

**American Wigeon:** SnB 13 Jan only report.

**Mallard:** max 590 Leishman Pt 16 Jan.

**American Black Duck:** max 115 WP 8 Jan.

**Northern Pintail:** max 127 WP 8 Jan where last 13 Jan; T Oswegatchie 21 Feb early arr?

**Green-winged Teal:** max 26 WP 11 Dec high for winter; last WP 8 Jan.

**Canvasback:** 2 PilPt 4 Dec only report.

**Redhead:** max 30 SnB 13 Jan.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 200 SnB 13 Jan.

**Greater Scaup:** max 260 PilPt 5 Dec.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 6 SnB 13 Jan.

**HARLEQUIN DUCK (R6):** 1<sup>st</sup> winter m LB (JBo, T. & E. Wheeler, N. Kachala) & TP (N. Leone) 16 Jan seen simultaneously; rare R6.

**White-winged Scoter:** max 30 SBSP 31 Dec.

**Black Scoter:** max 2 MP 3 Dec; WP 11 Dec & CCSP 12 Dec only other reports.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 835 MP 3 Dec.

**Bufflehead:** max 50 PilPt 5 Dec.

**Common Goldeneye:** max 1045 GPSP 2 Feb.

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** f HP 8-9 Jan (JBo, E. Wheeler).

**Hooded Merganser:** max 45 RMSP 29 Dec.

**Common Merganser:** max 2065 SLR T Massena 16 Jan.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 67 HH 3 Dec.

**Horned Grebe:** max 6 RWSP 29 Dec; singles same area 14 Dec & 13 Jan only other reports.

**Red-necked Grebe:** HH 3 Dec; BI 5-10 Dec; WHWMA 12 Dec & BI 10 Jan only reports.

**Little Gull:** ad PilPt 1 Dec (N. Leone).

**Ring-billed Gull:** vacated SLR by 20 Dec; scattered reports 1-9/day W JEFF Jan & Feb.

**Herring Gull:** max 1200 WBSP 1 Dec.

**Iceland Gull:** 1<sup>st</sup> cycle HP 8-16 Jan only report, low.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** RLT 31 Dec.

**Glaucous Gull:** 1<sup>st</sup> cycle HP 8 Jan; FL 20 Jan; only reports, low.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 295 HP 8 Jan.

**Red-throated Loon:** CCSP 5 Dec.

**Common Loon:** last 2 BI 16 Jan.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 17 HH 3 Dec; last 2 Dexter Marsh 18 Dec.

**Great Blue Heron:** reports from 7 loc; ULLWMA thru 20 Feb only loc after Dec.

**BLACK VULTURE (R6):** T Adams 20 Feb (C. Bond) only report.

**Turkey Vulture:** arr T Alexandria 27 Feb only report.

**Golden Eagle:** 20 Feb T Leray (J. Lang) only report.

**Northern Harrier:** 1-3/day NW JEFF thru; 8 reports of 9 ind STLA where last T Hammond 16 Jan; far fewer than previous winter.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** at least 18 ind from 13 loc.

**Cooper's Hawk:** at least 28 ind from 46 loc.

**Northern Goshawk:** imm PtPen 21 Jan (S. Kelling) only report.

**Bald Eagle:** 200+ reports; max 37 at deer carcass T Carthage 3 Jan; 27 PilPt 7 Jan & 23 at deer carcass T West Turin 3 Feb other notable concentrations.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** 5-12/day NW JEFF thru; many fewer than previous winter.  
**Rough-legged Hawk:** 12-22/day NW JEFF thru; fewer than previous winter.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** FD 1 Feb only report.

**Snowy Owl:** 31 reports of about 10-13 ind JEFF thru; T Lowville 24 & 31 Jan only reports away from JEFF.

**Short-eared Owl:** 2 T Lyme 1 Dec & 21 Jan; up to 6/day CV where last 5 Feb; 3 T Brasher 20-26 Jan; T Orleans 22 Jan.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** FD 15 Feb only report.

**Belted Kingfisher:** last FD 5 Jan.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** imm KC 28 Dec; 6 ad FD thru high for winter.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** CV 27 Dec to 17 Jan (R. Booth); RLT 31 Dec; RWSP 13 Jan (JBo); T Lawrence 16 Jan (J. & D. Busby); T Canton 29 Jan (B. Dixon); more than usual.

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** T Colton 28 Jan only report.

**Northern Flicker:** max 6 RMSP 29 Dec; at least 35 additional reports.

**American Kestrel:** 1-2/day NW JEFF thru; scarce elsewhere.

**Merlin:** 15 reports of at least 12 individuals.

**Peregrine Falcon:** many reports from traditional sites at BI, RMSP, T Watertown; also RWSP 14 Dec & 28 Feb; T Rutland 7 Jan.

**Northern Shrike:** 40 reports of at least 37 ind.

**Horned Lark:** max 69 CV 22 Jan.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 5 T Orleans 16 Dec.

**Bohemian Waxwing:** none.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 70 RRT 29 Jan; generally low numbers.

**Winter Wren:** Baker Woods Pres 21 Dec (S. Mix); Kip Trail SLU 22 Dec (JBo); last T Canton 28 Dec (JBo).

**Carolina Wren:** reports from 13 loc.

**Gray Catbird:** T Orleans 22 Jan (S. Kelling).

**Northern Mockingbird:** LWMA 3 Dec & 13 Jan (JBo).

**European Starling:** max 5000+ PtPen 21 Dec.

**Eastern Bluebird:** max 9 RWSP 3 Dec & T Stockholm 29 Dec; reports from another 26 loc thru; more than usual.

**Hermit Thrush:** State Park Rd PtPen 21 Dec (JBo); CV 7 Jan (N. Paprocki); StPt 19 Jan (N. Leone); Pine Woods Rd PtPen 21 Jan & 6 Feb (S. Kelling); rare but increasingly regular in winter.

**American Robin:** max 86 LBSF 20 Feb; widespread in mostly low numbers.

**Evening Grosbeak:** max 4 T Clifton 18 Feb; only 2 other reports.

**Pine Grosbeak:** max 8 T Pierrepont 28 Jan; only 5 other reports.

**House Finch:** max 53 T Brownville 3 Jan.

**Purple Finch:** max 23 T Parishville 23 Feb; widespread mostly small numbers.

**Common Redpoll:** max 50 CV 26 Feb; generally low numbers.

**Red Crossbill:** max 6 SUNY ESF Ranger School T Fine; 1-4 at 6 other loc; generally scarce.

**White-winged Crossbill:** max 10 T Colton 30 Jan; reports from 10 other loc; modest numbers.

**Pine Siskin:** max 20 T Colton 20 Feb; widespread in low numbers.

**American Goldfinch:** max 120 T Potsdam 18 Feb.

**Lapland Longspur:** max 6 LSB flying across SLR 12 Dec.

**Snow Bunting:** max 600 CV 13 Feb.

**Chipping Sparrow:** T Potsdam 30 Dec (S. Sirsat)

**American Tree Sparrow:** max 95 T Brasher 26 Jan.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 31 T Lyme 20 Feb.  
**White-throated Sparrow:** max 42 KC 23 Jan, generally good numbers.

**Savannah Sparrow:** T Hounsfield 20 Dec (B. Miller) only report.

**Song Sparrow:** max 4 T Louisville 5 Dec; about 20 other ind.

**Swamp Sparrow:** different locations FD 10 Dec & 5 Jan (J. Bolsinger) only reports.

**Eastern Towhee:** PtPen 14-24 Jan (R. Brouse, R. Lewis, mob).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** 2 T Orleans 1 Dec (S. Kelling) only report.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 4 KC 21 Feb; 18 other reports all but 5 after 25 Jan.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 15 reports from 7 loc; max 15 T Clayton 26 Dec.

**Rusty Blackbird:** T Massena 12 Dec (JBo) only report.

**Common Grackle:** 4 reports max 9 T Massena 18 Feb.

**Common Yellowthroat:** FD 5 Jan not found again (JBo) very rare in winter.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 16 StPt 13 Jan where many reports; also 5 PtPen 21 Dec & 2 T Hammond 23 Jan; all in red cedar.

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** PtPen 14-19 Jan (R. Brouse, R. Lewis, K. McHale, B. McConnell) very rare in winter.

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## REGION 7—ADIRONDACK-CHAMPLAIN

### **Bill Krueger**

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Precipitation in December (melted equivalent) ranged from 2-3" in almost all of the southern half of Region 7, the Champlain Valley and the eastern half of Franklin County. The rest of the Region got at least 3-4" except for the High Peaks Region and the area surrounding Lyon Mountain which got 4-5". The month was 3-5° warmer than normal throughout Region 7 apart from an area that included Lake Placid and Saranac Lake which was 1-3° warmer.

January's precipitation ranged from 1-2" in almost the entirety of Region 7. The exceptions were the extreme northwest which got only 0-1" and the High Peaks area which got from 2-3". The month was 5-7° colder than normal for all of Region 7 except for the southern halves of Hamilton and Essex Counties which were 3-5° colder than average. A deep freeze mid-month had an adverse impact on the annual waterfowl count. At end of the month and into 1 February, Winter Storm *Kenan* grazed the Region with minimum snow fall totals throughout.

The same was not true of two winter storms in February. Classed as a bomb cyclone, Winter Storm *Landon* dropped 12-14" in the northern Champlain Valley on the 4<sup>th</sup> and more in the higher elevations. Dooryard numbers soared as did sightings of gritting birds on roadsides, but no wind-driven birds were reported.

Snowfall totals for Winter Storm *Oaklee* on 25 February were similar. Temperatures for the month warmed over most of Region 7 to within a degree plus or minus of average. Only the northern half of Essex, the southwestern corner of Clinton, and the western portion of Hamilton Counties were 1-3° colder than normal. The highest elevations of Region 7, Lyon Mountain, the High Peaks, and southwestern Hamilton County, received 5-6" of precipitation with patches getting 6-7". Only the Champlain Valley and the western edge of Franklin County got less, at 3-4".

Despite an increased effort the total of 3,670 individuals in the annual waterfowl count on Lake Champlain and on inland lakes and rivers was lower than usual. The severe cold snap cited above in the week prior froze many of the interior lakes and rivers, froze the north end of Lake Champlain, and formed extensive ice shelves well out into the lake in the south. On the morning of the count the frigid air over the much warmer water formed a hovering mist that severely limited visibility. Despite all this, 18 species were recorded, highlighted by three sightings of Harlequin Ducks. Also notable for January were late Wood Duck, Gadwall, Northern Pintail and Red-breasted Merganser.

All or part of four CBCs were compiled in Region 7 in December. Plattsburgh's counted 53 species and 17,117 individuals. The highlight was a very late Baltimore Oriole which ultimately stayed all winter. The Saranac Lake CBC counted 2,715 individuals and 44 species. With its center in Vermont, Champlain Islands' CBC circle included a segment in Region 7, which added 31 species and 6,108 individuals. The New York side of the Ferrisburgh, VT CBC contributed three species not found by any other group, American Kestrel, Northern Shrike, and Red Crossbill.

The Winter Finch Forecast, (WFF) expected that White-winged Crossbill would irrupt this year with breeding likely. Sightings of this species in the Adirondacks of Region 7 abounded and included an early report of "male feeding behavior". As predicted Red Crossbills were abundant as well. According to Matt Young, president of the Finch Research Network, in the 20+ years that he's been doing crossbill work in New York State, the 2021-2022 winter has been the best overall year for both crossbill species at the same time. (See Notes and Observations pp. 134-135 for a more in depth account.) Some Purple Finches may have remained in Ontario as predicted, but there were more than 100 reports of this bird. Assessment of this prediction is complicated by their resident populations. Redpolls were expected "to stay north with some trickling later". The 75+ reports of Common Redpoll may or may not be a trickle, but this year's showing was nothing like the great irruption of the 2020-2021 winter season. Also, unlike last year, there were no reports of *rostrata* or either race of Hoary Redpoll. There were over 125 reports of Pine Siskin even though no southward movement was forecast. The expected limited movement south of Evening Grosbeak was borne out with fewer than ten reports from Region 7. Deemed unlikely to move south, Bohemian Waxwing was also reported fewer than ten times.

A **Mute Swan** found in late January lingered near the Essex Ferry for a month. It was the first record for Region 7 since the spring of 2008 when a pair, present for two weeks, was trapped and removed as a nuisance. **Tufted Duck** continued its recent streak of appearances covering the past nine years with sightings being reported through the end of February and into March from two widely separate locations. Adding to the collection of interesting *Aythya* species was an apparent Redhead x scaup sp. (hybrid) found at the south end of Lake Champlain in Bulwagga Bay on 30 December just off the western shore of Crown Point State Historic Site. In an embarrassment of riches at least two distinct **Harlequin Ducks** were discovered. The first involved an immature drake at Bulwagga Bay Beach in Port Henry on 30 December, where it favored the edge of a steep rock wall along the lake shoreline. On 10 January, a hen was discovered riding the icy rapids inside of the La Chute River in Ticonderoga where it remained through 10 February.

At least two **Razorbills** continued from the fall season at Crown Point State Historic Site following an unprecedented inland incursion of the species. Sightings on 2 and 5 December constitute a winter season first for Region 7 and added to the very short list of alcids recorded in the NY waters of Lake Champlain.

Herring x Great Black-backed Gulls (hybrid) continue their regular appearance at known gull congregations along Lake Champlain in Clinton and Essex Counties. Regular year-round sightings at the Boquet and Saranac River mouths prove Region 7 to be a relatively reliable area for studying these interesting hybrids. While their natal site remains a mystery, it's highly probable they originate from the Four Brothers Islands in the middle of Lake Champlain (Essex County), approximately 5.5 miles northeast of Willsboro.

Four reports of **Golden Eagle** were a strong showing. A **Snowy Owl** was present for several days at the north end of the lake in Clinton County in mid-December. There were also two reports of Snowy Owls from the south end of the lake in Essex County. Both Essex County birds were photographed, which solidified the distinction between both individuals. The **Long-eared Owl** found in the Willsboro area at the end of December was the only winter record in more than 20 years. The bird was found in a large, overgrown hayfield adjacent to a substantial, mature red cedar forest. There is no way of knowing whether the scarce detection of Long-eared Owls in Region 7 is in any way a reflection of the deliberate killing of 162 individuals on Valcour Island in a predator control program in the 1940s (*The Kingbird* 1989: Vol. 39, No. 1, p. 24).

A Hermit Thrush was photographed at Willsboro Bay Marina on 30 January and marked a first January record for this species in Region 7. In addition, there are no February records of Hermit Thrush. Only a handful of winter season records exist, with the previous late date being 30 December 2021.

A couple of additional hardy late-season birds were discovered this season. An adult male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was photographed at a backyard bird feeding station on 4 December in Saranac Lake and constitutes the first winter season record for this species in Region 7. A bright adult male Baltimore Oriole

overwintered in Plattsburgh with the aid of a private feeding station, yet another winter season first for Region 7.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**AP** – Ausable Pt; **APN** – Ausable Pt; north of entrance; **BB** – Bloomingdale Bog; **BRR** – Bull Rock Rd; **BBB** – Bulwagga Bay Beach; **Cad** – Cadyville; **CPt** – Crown Pt; **CRi** – Chazy Riverlands; **Ess** – Essex; **MB** – Montys Bay; **MM** – Maple Meadows; **PBy** – Plattsburgh Bay; **PCBC** – Plattsburgh CBC; **PH** – Port Henry; **SL** – Saranac L; **SRM** – Saranac Ri Mouth; **TI** – Ticonderoga; **TL** – Tupper L; **WB** – Whallons Bay; **WBR** – Whallons Bay Rd; **WMO** – Lake opposite Wickham Marsh; **WMS** – South of Wickham Marsh; **WP** – Westport; **WPB** – Westport boat launch; **XAB** – Old Air Force Base.

**Cackling Goose:** PBy 9 Dec (SR).

**Mute Swan:** Essex Ferry 26 Jan - 26 Feb (m. ob.).

**Gadwall:** WB 6-24 Feb (m. ob.).

**American Wigeon:** Ess 19 Feb (JZ).

**Northern Pintail:** MB 6 Jan (SR); 2 WMS 14 Jan (SR); 2 AP 12 Feb (TD).

**Green-winged Teal:** 2 AP 5 Jan (OS).

**Redhead:** 9 CP 7 Dec (SR); 10 APN 11 Feb (BM).

**Redhead x scaup hybrid:** CPt 30 Dec (DHR), *intro*.

**Ring-necked Duck:** 13 WPB 20 Jan (SR).

**TUFTED DUCK:** 2 CPt 7-30 Dec (SR, m. ob.); 2 APN 10-24 Feb (SR), *intro*.

**Greater Scaup:** 3000 APN 20 Feb (JeC).

**Lesser Scaup:** 500 APN 20 Feb (m. ob.).

**Greater/Lesser Scaup:** 4000 APN 10 Feb (SR).

**Harlequin Duck:** BBB 30 Dec-1 Jan (DHR); TI 10 Jan-5 Feb (m. ob.); WPB 19-20 Jan (DHR); *intro*.

**White-winged Scoter:** PH 14 Dec (SR); 5 PH 5 Jan (GC), late.

**Long-tailed Duck:** Trombly Bay 19 Dec (JS).

**Bufflehead:** 45 WMO 16 Dec (SR).

**Common Goldeneye:** 800 APN 24 Feb (OS).

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** CPt 30 Dec-1 Jan (SR); 4 WMO 14 Jan & 10-24 Feb (m. ob.); PBy 10 Feb (SR); AP 10 Feb (SR).

**Common x Barrows Goldeneye:** PH 5 Jan (SR).

**Hooded Merganser:** 21 AP 30 Dec (KMc).

**Common Merganser:** 300 MB 24 Dec (DHR); HBO 14 Jan (SR).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** CPt 7 Dec (SR); 8 Plattsburgh 3 Feb (SR).

**Wild Turkey:** 69 WP 26 Feb.

**Ruffed Grouse:** 6 Lake Clear 18 Feb (AdB).

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Riverview 6 Jan (BM).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** PH 21 Dec (SR).

**Horned Grebe:** 6 WB 16 Jan-21 Feb (BMc).

**Red-necked Grebe:** WPB 20 Jan (SR), late.

**RAZORBILL:** 2 CPt & PH 2-5 DEC (mob), *intro*.

**Iceland Gull:** 2 Cad 9 Dec (JB); PBy 7 Jan-21 Feb (m. ob.).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** XAB 17-18 Feb (SR), scarce in winter.

**Glaucous Gull:** PBy 6 Dec -17 Feb (m. ob.); Cad 18 Feb (JB).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** 46 SRM 9 Dec (SR).

**Herring x Great Black-backed Gull (hybrid):** WD 16 Dec (SR); PBy 13 Jan (SR); Noblewood P 19 Dec thru 3 Feb (DHR); *intro*.

**Common Loon:** 5 BWB 1 Jan (SR).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 5 BWB 1 Jan (SR).

**Great Blue Heron:** 3 AP 16 Dec (m. ob.).

**Black Vulture:** 10 TI 1 Jan (GC).

**Turkey Vulture:** BRR 17 Feb (G&MC), rare in winter.

**Golden Eagle:** Rouses Pt 9 Dec (SR); North Hudson 29 Jan (MY); Franklin Co 29 Jan (JF); BRR 17 Feb (G&MC), *intro*.

**Northern Harrier:** 5 WBR 1 Dec (MB, BM).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** Eight Acre Wood 7 Feb (GL).

**Cooper's Hawk:** 2 MM 15 Jan (SR).

**Northern Goshawk:** TI 14 Dec-2 Jan; Sunset Pd Bog 24 Dec (C&MC); Newcomb 29 Jan (MY).

**Bald Eagle:** 4 XAB 21 Feb (SR).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Hogback Rd 8 Feb (SR), rare in winter.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** 3 PCBC 19 Dec.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 3 WBR 24 Dec (WS).

**Eastern Screech Owl:** WBR 20 Dec (NKS).

**Great Horned Owl:** Cumberland Head 18 Jan (SJ).

**Snowy Owl:** CRi 15-19 Dec (m. ob.); 2 Ess 23-24 Dec & 1-23 Jan (m. ob.), *intro*.

**Barred Owl:** 2 MM 28 Dec (SR).

**Long-eared Owl:** Lilly Lane Fields 30 Dec (DHR), rare, *intro*.

**Short-eared Owl:** max 5 WBR 5 Dec (SR).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** TL 26 Dec (C&MC).

**Belted Kingfisher:** Summer Brook 13 Feb (CV); PS 24 Feb (EG).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 2 BRR 23-28 Dec (G&MC).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** WP 16 Jan (BMc); BRR 23 Jan-28 Feb (G&MC).

**Black-backed Woodpecker:** 2 BB 28 Jan (JP).

**Northern Flicker:** Cumberland Head 8 Feb (SJ).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** 2 Cad 21 Feb (JJ).

**American Kestrel:** Ess 5 Dec - 11 Jan (SR, mob); WP 15 Dec - 12 Feb (RB, mob).

**Merlin:** Twin Valleys Loop 17 Dec (DN).

**Peregrine Falcon:** CPt 30 Dec (DHR); Charter Tower Plattsburgh 25 Jan & ff (SR).

**Northern Shrike:** reps at traditional locations

**Canada Jay:** 9 BB 21 Feb (JC); 1 juv Owls Head throughout (JT).

**Blue Jay:** 68 PCBC 19 Dec.

**American Crow:** 6239 PCBC 19 Dec.

**Common Raven:** 33 Pyramid L 9 Jan (EG).

**Boreal Chickadee:** 10 16 Feb (m. ob.).

**Tufted Titmouse:** 13 PCBC 19 Dec.

**Horned Lark:** 60 Reynolds Rd 23 Dec (SR).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 11 BB 2 Jan (JC).

**Bohemian Waxwing:** < 10 reports; max 109 Keene Valley 22-26 Feb (DHR, mob), *intro*.

**Cedar Waxwing:** 55 Olmstedville 3 Jan (MMo).

**Winter Wren:** CPt 2 Dec (SR).

**Carolina Wren:** MM 1 Dec (SR).

**Gray Catbird:** MM overwintered (SR).

**Brown Thrasher:** Peru overwintered.

**Northern Mockingbird:** SRM 11 Feb (BM).

**Hermit Thrush:** Willsboro Pt 30 Jan (DHR), late, *intro*.

**Evening Grosbeak:** < 10 reports; max 5 Blue Mt Rd 27 Dec (MBu), *intro*.

**Purple Finch:** > 100 reports; max 35 Newcomb 29 Jan (MY), *intro*.

**Common Redpoll:** 75+ reports; first Vermontville 19 Dec (MB); max 33 Sandy Beach 24 Feb (TH), *intro*.

**Red Crossbill:** widespread, max 60 Piseco L 15 Dec (CK), *intro*, and see Notes and Observations pp. 134-135.

**White-winged Crossbill:** widespread, max 48 Paul Smith's College 4 Dec (NM), *intro*, and see Notes and Observations pp. 134-135.

**Pine Siskin:** > 125 reports; first 32 SL 2 Jan (JS); max 120 Swinyer Rd 20 Feb (JN), *intro*, and see Notes and Observations pp. 134-135.

32 SL 2 Jan (JS); 120 Swinyer Rd 20 Feb (JN).

**American Goldfinch:** max 35 CRi 31 Dec (KMc).

**Lapland Longspur:** 13 Reynolds Rd 23 Dec (SR).

**Snow Bunting:** 200 CRi 19 Dec (m. ob.).

**Fox Sparrow:** Paradox 6 Feb (EG).

**American Tree Sparrow:** 19 WBR 1 Feb (SR).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** 30 WBR 5 Jan (BM, MB).

**White-throated Sparrow:** Speculator 12 Feb (AM), late.

**Savannah Sparrow:** Delano Rd 7 Feb (SR), late.

**Song Sparrow:** TI 28 Jan (GC); MM 6-19 Feb (SR).

**Swamp Sparrow:** Malone 29 Dec (JSh), late.

**Baltimore Oriole:** Plattsburgh overwintered, *intro*.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** Peru overwintered.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** 4 Malone 18 Feb (DW).

**Rusty Blackbird:** ES 6-16 Jan (SR).

**Common Grackle:** Peru 18 Feb (SB).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 2 Ess 19 Dec - 26 Jan (DHR), late.

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** Kewassa L Outlet 4 Dec (KW), late, *intro*.

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## REGION 8—HUDSON-MOHAWK

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The 2021-2022 winter season was one of sharp contrasts and sudden reversals. December 2021 was much warmer than normal and could only muster four inches of snow at Albany. The last ten days of the year, and the first two of 2022, were a remarkable eleven degrees above normal and suggested a warm, wet winter was in the cards. But as so often happens, the atmosphere had other ideas. The remainder of January suddenly turned relentlessly cold, almost without respite. It was also very dry, with Arctic air masses dominant and no coastal storms affecting the area. February flipped the script once again, with a rollercoaster of alternating

warm and cold stretches, but only eleven inches of snow. Needless to say, once the cold arrived for good in early January, water bodies froze over and stayed that way through the end of the period.

	Albany			Glens Falls		
Temp	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	36.1°	30.4°	+5.7°	31.9°	26.6°	+5.3°
Jan	19.7°	24.4°	-4.7°	15.5°	19.7°	-4.2°
Feb	27.5°	26.8°	+0.7°	23.4°	21.9°	+1.5°

Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	2.65"	3.26"	-0.61"	2.53"	3.01"	-0.48"
Jan	1.28"	2.60"	-1.32"	0.65"	2.56"	-1.91"
Feb	2.77"	2.28"	+0.49"	2.99"	1.95"	+1.04"

Rarities were just that, rare this winter season. The Bird of the Season was the **Razorbill** seen briefly on Lake Champlain in far northern Washington County on 13 December. Gary Chapin observed it and provided a well-documented report of the sighting. A pair of **Sandhill Cranes** spent a week roosting along a section of Mohawk River backwater in Halfmoon, Saratoga County, where a pair had also spent time during the early winter in several previous seasons.

A lone **Canvasback** was spotted at the Schoharie Crossing Boat Launch in Montgomery County on 22 January. **White-winged Scoters** were reported from Saratoga Lake, Cossayuna Lake (Washington County), and Snyder's Lake (Rensselaer County) in December. A **Virginia Rail** was present again this winter during the Chatham CBC, in a cattail marsh along the Hudson River in Stuyvesant, Columbia County. It responded to playback, as it had the previous year. **Iceland Gull** seemed more widespread, in small numbers, than in recent years, with reports from Fulton, Montgomery, Saratoga, and Albany Counties. **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was hard to find, with the only reports from the Mohawk River, Cohoes in mid-January, and Schoharie Crossing Boat Launch in Montgomery County on the last day of February. **Glaucous Gulls** were observed at Round Lake in Saratoga County, and along the Cohoes-Crescent corridor in Albany County. **Snowy Owls** were not as abundant as in recent years, but they were reported from Montgomery, Greene, and Albany Counties, and as usual from the Ft. Edward Grasslands Area in Washington County where two were noted during much of the winter. **Short-eared Owls** were found in their strongholds in Greene, Montgomery, and Washington Counties. The highest number reported from the Ft. Edward Grasslands was nine on 8 January.

Among the unusually late reports this season were **Marsh Wrens** at a farm pond along the Hudson River north of Coxsackie, Greene County on 18 December, and on 2 January from South Bay, Hudson, Columbia County. **American Pipits** were observed along the Hudson River corridor in Saratoga County during all three winter months this year, which might be unprecedented, at least in recent times, looking at CBC data. Rich Guthrie had a very late

**Nashville Warbler** in his yard on 21 December, in New Baltimore, Greene County. **Common Yellowthroats** lingered into December in two locations, with the unseasonable warmth very much in their favor. A **Cape May Warbler** showed up at a bird feeder in Poestenkill, Rensselaer County on 9 December and hung around until at least the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month.

**Common Redpolls** and **Red Crossbills** did not venture very far south of the international border this winter, with just a few observations locally, mostly at bird feeders in the case of the former.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Alden, Susan Beaudoin, Mike Birmingham, Nancy Castillo, Glen & Malinda Chapman, Steve Chorvas, Jeremy Collison, Bill Cook, Brianna Denoncour, Alan Devoe Bird Club recent sightings, Amanda Dillon, David DiSiena, Craig Driggs, Bruce Dudek, Alan Dupuis, Lindsey Duval, Scott Fackenthal, Larry Federman, Debra Ferguson, Mark Fitzsimmons, Rich Guthrie, HMBirds Yahoo Group, Larry & Barbara Hall, David Harrison, Ron Harrower, John Hershey, John Kent, Nancy Kern, Bill Lee, Naomi Lloyd, Tristan Lowery, Alan Mapes, Leigh McBride, Thom McClenahan, Steve Mesick, Joyce Miller, Frank Mitchell, Frank Murphy, Jenny Murtaugh, Ellen Pemrick, Will Raup, Gregg Recer & Cathy Graichen, Neal Reilly, Stacy Robinson, John Roosenberg, Jeanette Roundy, Kathy Schneider, Zach Schwartz-Weinstein, John Shea, Marian Sole, George Steele, Scott Stoner, Craig Thompson, Alison Van Keuren, Phil Whitney, Tom & Colleen Williams, Will Yandik, Robert Yunick.

## ABBREVIATIONS

**APBP** – Albany Pine Bush Pres, ALBA; **AR** – Alcove Res, ALBA; **BCM** – Black Creek Marsh, ALBA; **BCR** – Basic Creek Res, ALBA; **BMB** – Bog Meadow Brook Nature Trail, SARA; **CCGP** – Coxsackie Creek Grasslands Pres, GREE; **CF** – Cohoes Flats, ALBA; **CL** – Collins L, SCHE; **CRM** – Cline Rd. Marsh, FULT; **FR** – Five Rivers EEC, ALBA; **FtEG** – Ft. Edward Grasslands, WASH; **FV** – Franklinton Vlaie, SCHO; **HP** – Huyck Pres, ALBA; **OCA** – Ooms Conservation Area, COLU; **PRWMA** – Partridge Run WMA, ALBA; **SNHP** – Saratoga National Historical P, SARA; **TR** – Tomhannock Res, RENN; **VFNHP** – Vischer Ferry Nature & Historic Pres, SARA; **WMP** – Wilson M. Powell Wildlife Sanctuary, COLU.

**Snow Goose:** max 200 SNHP 8 Dec.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Schodack RENS 24 Feb.

**Canada Goose:** max 7500 Glen MONT 23 Dec.

**Mute Swan:** max 5 BCR 2 Dec.

**Wood Duck:** max 3 Stillwater SARA 2 Dec.

**Northern Shoveler:** max 9 Wagers Pd SARA 9 Dec.

**Gadwall:** max 16 Stanton Pd ALBA 6 Dec.

**American Wigeon:** max 50 Stanton Pd ALBA 5 Dec.

**Mallard:** max 500 Glen MONT 29 Dec.

**American Black Duck:** max 83 Cossayuna L WASH 23 Jan.

**Northern Pintail:** max 15 Stanton Pd ALBA 5 Dec.

**Green-winged Teal:** max 6 Cossayuna L WASH 31 Dec.

**Canvasback:** Schoharie Crossing MONT 22 Jan.

**Redhead:** max 4 Loughberry L SARA 4 Dec.

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 500 Loughberry L SARA 5 Dec.

**Greater Scaup:** Max 60 Loughberry L SARA 15 Dec.

**Lesser Scaup:** max 150 Loughberry L SARA 5 Dec.

**White-winged Scoter:** 6 Snyder's L RENS 7 Dec; 4 Lock 7 Canal P SCHE 30 Dec.

**Black Scoter:** 5 Saratoga L SARA 2 Dec; Green Island ALBA 6 Jan.

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 4 Saratoga L SARA 30 Dec.

**Bufflehead:** max 115 Saratoga L SARA 5 Dec.

**Common Goldeneye:** max 425 Saratoga L SARA 3 Jan.

**Hooded Merganser:** max 240 Saratoga L SARA 4 Jan.

**Common Merganser:** max 2000 Round L SARA 6 Jan.

**Red-breasted Merganser:** 4 Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 1 Dec; 4 Fish Creek Marina SARA 19 Jan.

**Ruddy Duck:** max 142 BCR 2 Dec.

**Wild Turkey:** 98 Blenheim SCHO 7 Jan; 82 Northumberland SARA 13 Jan; 68 Pittstown RENS 4 Jan; 66 Athens GREE 19 Feb; 65 Kingsbury WASH 9 Dec; 65 Mechanicville SARA 28 Dec.

**Ruffed Grouse:** max 5 Wrights Loop SARA 30 Dec.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** max 9 FtEG 30 Dec.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 3 Copake L COLU 4 Dec.

**Horned Grebe:** Copake L COLU 4 Dec; VFNHP 27 Dec.

**Red-necked Grebe:** no reports.

**Rock Pigeon:** max 300 Overlook P, Cohoes ALBA 15 Dec.

**Mourning Dove:** max 65 Stillwater SARA 2 Dec.

**Virginia Rail:** Stuyvesant COLU 18 Dec.

**Sandhill Crane:** 2 Canal Rd, Halfmoon SARA 1-6 Dec.

**Killdeer:** 2 Troy RENS 22 Feb; arr Livingston COLU 12 Feb *very early*.

**RAZORBILL:** Bob & Betty Cummings Mem P WASH 13 Dec.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Ballston L SARA 12 Dec *late*.

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 400 Crescent P SARA 2 Dec.

**Herring Gull:** max 700 Fultonville MONT 20 Feb.

**Iceland Gull:** max 3 Cohoes ALBA 3 Jan; 3 Fulton County Landfill FULT 5 Jan.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** Cohoes ALBA 4 Jan; Schoharie Crossing MONT 28 Feb.

**Glaucous Gull:** Round L SARA 25 Dec; Cohoes ALBA 30 Dec.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 150 Cohoes ALBA 6 Jan.

**Red-throated Loon:** Swyer Pres COLU 6 Dec.

**Common Loon:** max 7 Saratoga L SARA 4 Jan.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** 3 South Bay WASH 1 Dec.

**Great Blue Heron:** max 4 Canal Rd, Halfmoon SARA 2 Dec.

**Black Vulture:** 100 Greenport COLU 12 Jan; 65 New Scotland ALBA 19 Feb.

**Turkey Vulture:** max 8 FtEG 6 Dec; Catskill GREE 20 Feb.

**Golden Eagle:** max 2 Copake COLU 18 Jan.

**Northern Harrier:** max 7 FtEG 5 Dec.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** max 2 Schodack RENS 21 Feb.

**Cooper's Hawk:** 3 Schenectady SCHE 7 Feb.

**Northern Goshawk:** Rensselaerville ALBA 21 Feb.

**Bald Eagle:** 9 Coxsackie Res GREE 26 Dec; 9 Cobleskill SCHO 30 Dec; 9 Schaghticoke RENS 20 Jan; 9 Catskill GREE 21 Feb.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** max 2 Stockport COLU 27 Jan; 2 Chatham COLU 21 Feb.

**Red-tailed Hawk:** max 9 Coxsackie Flats GREE 14 Dec; 9 Northumberland SARA 5 Jan.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** max 5 FtEG 21 Feb.

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** max 2 Henry Hudson P ALBA 4 Jan.

**Great Horned Owl:** max 3 Guilderland ALBA 10 Dec.

**Snowy Owl:** max 2 FtEG 1 Dec.

**Barred Owl:** max 4 Ft Ann WASH 21 Feb.

**Short-eared Owl:** max 9 FtEG 8 Jan.

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** max 2 Livingston COLU 21 Feb.

**Belted Kingfisher:** max 3 Mayfield FULT 6 Dec.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** max 8 VFNHP 15 Dec.

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** max 3 mult loc COLU.

**Downy Woodpecker:** max 11 VFNHP 15 Dec.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** max 7 VFNHP 16 Jan.

**Northern Flicker:** max 5 RamsHorn-Livingston Sanc GREE 14 Dec.

**Pileated Woodpecker:** max 4 SNHP 24 Dec.

**American Kestrel:** max 4 FtEG 14 Jan.

**Merlin:** max 2 Saratoga Springs SARA 3 Dec.

**Peregrine Falcon:** max 2 mult loc along Hudson River.

**Eastern Phoebe:** Schuylererville SARA 13 Jan, *only report*.

**Northern Shrike:** max 2 Putnam WASH 17 Dec.

**Blue Jay:** max 23 Mindem MONT 26 Dec.

**American Crow:** max 2640 Menands ALBA 26 Dec.

**Fish Crow:** max 50 Cohoes ALBA 4 Jan.

**Common Raven:** max 42 Catskill GREE 19 Feb.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 38 SNHP 13 Dec.

**Tufted Titmouse:** max 11 Wilton Wildlife Pres SARA 14 Dec.

**Horned Lark:** max 500 Northumberland SARA 8 Jan.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** max 2 Athens GREE 9 Feb.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** max 9 SNHP 24 Dec.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 101 Nassau RENS 26 Dec.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** max 20 Amy's P WASH 20 Dec.

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** max 11 SNHP 5 Dec.

**Brown Creeper:** max 6 SNHP 8 Feb.

**Winter Wren:** max 3 Peebles I SP SARA 3 Dec; 3 BMB 6 Dec; 3 VFNHP 30 Dec.

**Marsh Wren:** New Baltimore GREE 18 Dec; Hudson COLU 2 Jan.

**Carolina Wren:** max 9 Coxsackie Flats GREE 14 Dec.

**Gray Catbird:** singletons at mult loc.

**Northern Mockingbird:** max 7 Coxsackie Flats GREE 14 Dec.

**European Starling:** max 5900 Livingston COLU 20 Dec.

**Eastern Bluebird:** max 14 mult loc.

**Hermit Thrush:** max 4 SNHP 15 Dec.

**American Robin:** max 3510 Columbia-Geene Comm Coll COLU 14 Dec.

**House Sparrow:** max 150 Cohoes ALBA 6 Jan.

**American Pipit:** max 35 Stillwater SARA 2 Dec.

**House Finch:** max 54 Hudson COLU 28 Dec.

**Purple Finch:** max 33 Putnam WASH 13 Dec.

**Common Redpoll:** max 5 Ghent COLU 20 Feb.

**Red Crossbill:** max 16 Northville FULT 18 Dec.

**Pine Siskin:** max 30 Ft Ann WASH 30 Jan.

**American Goldfinch:** max 86 Greenfield SARA 8 Feb.

**Lapland Longspur:** max 5 Northumberland SARA 19 Jan.

**Snow Bunting:** max 500 Saratoga Springs SARA 6 Feb.

**Chipping Sparrow:** singletons at mult loc.

**Field Sparrow:** max 2 Greenport Cons Area COLU 14 Dec; 2 New Baltimore GREE 19 Dec.

**Fox Sparrow:** singletons in mult loc.

**American Tree Sparrow:** max 45 Schuylererville SARA 5 Jan.

**Dark-eyed Junco:** max 107 Kinderhook COLU 18 Dec.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** max 3 Middleburgh SCHO 5 Feb; Bethlehem ALBA 19 Dec.

**White-throated Sparrow:** max 105 Niskayuna SCHE 17 Dec.

**Savannah Sparrow:** max 10 Livingston COLU 8 Jan.

**Song Sparrow:** max 17 VFNHP 18 Dec.

**Swamp Sparrow:** max 3 Stuyvesant COLU 18 Dec.

**Eastern Towhee:** max 2 WMP 8 Jan.

**Bobolink:** Churchtown COLU 20 Dec, *very late*.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** max 7 Coxsackie GREE 9 Feb.

**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 500 Taghkanic COLU 16 Feb.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** max 112 Ghent COLU 29 Dec.

**Rusty Blackbird:** max 7 BCM 2 Feb.

**Common Grackle:** max 4000 Schodack COLU 17 Feb.

**Nashville Warbler:** New Baltimore GREE 21 Dec.

**Common Yellowthroat:** FR 2 Dec; Collins L SCHE 18 Dec.

**Cape May Warbler:** Poestenkill RENS 9-18 Dec, coming to feeder.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 17 Coxsackie Flats GREE 14 Dec.

**Northern Cardinal:** max 12 Glenmont ALBA 19 Dec.

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## REGION 9—HUDSON-DELAWARE

**John H. Haas**

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December was mild with a high of 67° F on 16 December and a low of 16° on 20 December, an average of 5.4° above normal. There was a total of 1.81" of precipitation, 1.58" below normal. This made for a warm, dry month with almost no snow. January found us in a deep freeze. The morning of the mid-winter waterfowl count, 16 January, dawned at -6°. The following morning the first major snowstorm of the winter dropped up to 9" of snow on the Region. That wouldn't be the end of the cold. 22 January dawned at -10°. There would be three more mornings below zero before the end of the month. The Poughkeepsie site showed temps more in the zero range which was obviously affected by the river and the lower elevation. They showed a high of 54° on 1 January and a low of -3° on 30 January. This gave us an average temperature 23.7°, 3.4° below normal. These were by far the coldest temperatures in the Region in many years. We had a total of 1.22" of precipitation, falling mostly as light snow. This was 1.6" below normal. The long-range forecast for February was above normal temperatures, but 1 February found us at -1°. A major storm hit the Region on 4 February with considerable ice to the north and rain further south. Ulster County had extensive damage that took weeks to clean up. The Poughkeepsie site showed a high of 68° on 23 February and a low of 1° on 1 February with an average temperature of 30.8°, 1.6° above normal. There was a total of 3.07" of precipitation, .86" above normal.

Greater White-fronted Geese were found around the Region from the very beginning of the period. On 14 January Debbie van Zyl was scanning the Canada Geese in Wappingers Falls when she picked out one each of Greater White-fronted Goose and **Pink-footed Goose**. At least one Cackling Goose continued in the Black Dirt Region of Orange County at the beginning of the period. On 11 January Chris Chappell noted a **Ross's Goose** at Sand Dock Road Trail in

Dutchess County; following a period of absence, it was relocated and seen by many. On 10 January R Miller picked a female **Barrow's Goldeneye** out of a flock of Common Goldeneye on the Hudson River in Ulster County. The bird was later seen from Dutchess County as well and continued through the period.

An extraordinary winter gull season got off to a great start when Bruce Nott spotted the adult Iceland Gull, continuing from the fall period, from the Newburgh Waterfront on 4 December. Lesser Black-backed and Glaucous Gulls were seen on both sides of the river as well. On 17 February Ari Weiss spotted a **Little Gull** as it landed off Piermont Pier. The Regional mega-rarity remained just long enough for him to get some identifiable photos and was gone. The highlight of the season, though, occurred on 16 December when Ronnie DiLorenzo picked a **Franklin's Gull** out of a flock of Ring-billed Gulls on the Newburgh Waterfront. The bird developed a pattern and was easily viewed at the Newburgh Sewage Treatment Plant when not on the water or at the launch. Uncharacteristically for the species, the bird continued through 8 January. On 4 January Sean Camillieri spotted an unusual gull on the Hudson River which turned out to be a **Black-legged Kittiwake**. Bruce Nott was able to get some identifying shots of this extreme rarity for the Region. Fortunately, several others were able to see the bird before it disappeared.

On 4 December Matt Zeitler found a Snowy Owl perched on the New York Waterways Ferry on the Newburgh Waterfront. It remained only that afternoon but was viewed by many.

On 18 December Richard Leonard came upon a flycatcher at Rockefeller State Park that he didn't recognize. Realizing it was something different, he took several photos identifying it as an **Ash-throated Flycatcher!** This is a mega-rarity for Westchester and Region 9, with only one previous historical record from 1970 (Fritz & Quinlan, *Bull's Birds of New York State*, 1998, p. 370-371). The bird was relocated on 24 December by Steve Rappaport, enabling others to see it as well. It continued through 1 January but was not seen thereafter.

On 2 December Dave Chernack saw a Northern Shrike at the Shawangunk Grasslands NWR. This was the first of many reports this season.

On 11 January Jim Yates photographed a bluebird at Esopus Meadows Park that was determined to be a **Mountain Bluebird**. Once word got out the bird was very cooperative, spending much of its time there and in Esopus Meadows Lighthouse Park right in the parking lot.

On 23 January Mary Buskey was photographing Song Sparrows along her road when she realized one of the birds was in fact a Vesper Sparrow; rare in the Region in winter, it was viewed by several birders in the following days. On 2 December Charlie Roberto found two **LeConte's Sparrows** at Croton Point Park, at least one continuing from the fall. They remained through the end of the month. On 17 January Jeanne Cimorelli was watching some birds feed along Station Road in Campbell Hall, Orange County when she spotted a bird she didn't recognize. Merlin identified it as a **Lark Sparrow**, and she put the word out. This species is

often accommodating, and it was exactly that for much of its stay through 30 January.

On 4 December Jodi Brodsky had a Baltimore Oriole on her feeders. The bird continued into January and was the first of several reports. On 16 December Leon Meintjes discovered a flock of six Boat-tailed Grackles on Glen Island Park in Westchester County. Eamon Corbett relocated them on 23 December, then numbering eight birds which matched the previous high count for the county. The birds continued sporadically into January.

On 17 December a small group of warblers was found along the Hudson River near the Newburgh Sewage Treatment Plant while birders were observing the gulls. A Yellow Warbler was the most unusual among them. They not only continued into January, but on 8 January Curt McDermott was observing them when he saw a Tennessee Warbler had joined the group.

On 24 December Kim Gragert spotted an unusual bird feeding in a juniper in Putnam Valley. She identified it as a **Western Tanager**, but it wasn't until 9 January that she saw it again and was able to get excellent photos of the bird. Unfortunately, it only returned sporadically and was unable to be viewed by others. On 7 February a photo was posted to Facebook requesting identification of a beautiful **Black-headed Grosbeak** that had come to a private feeder in Westchester County on 6 February but never returned. On 11 January Bob Howard noted an unusual bird in a mixed flock feeding in a cornfield on Rte. 209 in Ulster County. The bird was a bunting, but much discussion ensued as to which bunting. It was ultimately confirmed to be a first year Indigo Bunting, an exceptional find at this time of year.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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## ABBREVIATIONS

**AR** – Ashokan Res , ULST; **BW** – Beacon Waterfront, DUTC; **BSWMA** – Bashakill State WMA, SULL; **CFSP** – Clarence Fahnestock SP, PUTN; **CIES** – Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, DUTC; **CPP** – Croton Pt P, WEST; **DHCLP** – D and H Canal Linear P, SULL; **EGR** – Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, WEST; **EMLP** – Esopus Meadows Lighthouse P, ULST; **KP** – Kingston Pt, ULST; WEST; **MC** – Marshlands Conservancy, WEST; **MRCC** – Mariondale Retreat and Conference Center, WEST; **NCR** – New Croton Res, WEST; **NR** – Neversink Res, SULL; **NW** – Newburgh Waterfront, ORAN; **OCBDR** – Orange County Black Dirt Region, ORAN; **PP** – Piermont Pier, ROCK; **RLSP** – Rockland L SP, ROCK; **RR** – Rondout Res, SULL; **RSP** – Rockefeller SP, WEST; **SGNWR** – Shawangunk Grasslands NWR, ULST; **SHSR** – Six and a Half Station Rd, ORAN; **VFEP** – Vassar Farms and Ecological Pres, DUTC; **WL** – Wickham L, ORAN; **WRNWR** – Wallkill Ri NWR, ORAN; **ws reps** – widespread reports.

**Snow Goose:** max 3500 OCBDR 2-28 Feb (RD, RS, mob); max 1500 BSWMA 23 Feb (JH, PD).

**Ross's Goose:** Sand Dock Rd Trail DUTC 11, 31 Jan-13 Feb (CC, mob), *intro*.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Bowman Ave Pd WEST (EGR too) 1 Dec-28 Feb (GB, mob); RLSP 3 Dec-23 Feb (DM, mob); Wallkill ULST 4-10 Dec (MZ, mob); OCBDR 29 Dec-6 Jan, 21 Feb (MZ, mob); Wallkill 27 Dec (BN); Wappingers Falls DUTC 14 Jan (DvZ); Sand Dock Rd Trail 2 Feb (CC).

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE:** Wappingers Falls 14-17 Jan (DvZ, mob), *intro*.

**Brant:** max 135 EGR 1 Dec-28 Feb (GB, mob).

**Cackling Goose:** max 4 OCBDR 1 Dec-1 Jan (LS, mob); 2 EGR 17 Jan (GB, mob); Montgomery ORAN 27 Jan (JC); OCBDR 13-14 Feb (MZ, RD); Sand Dock Rd Trail 14 Feb (BT); 2 Popp Memorial P ULST 27 Feb (JC).

**Tundra Swan:** 4 CPP 2 Jan (SW).

**Blue-winged Teal:** Long Dock P DUTC 26 Dec (DvZ).

**Northern Shoveler:** 3 OCBDR 1 Dec (LS); max 45 RLSP 1 Dec- 28 Feb (CW, mob); max 116 Huguenot L WEST 4-12 Dec (GB, mob); 2 Phillipsport Marsh SULL 14 Dec (JH, SB); 2 BSWMA 25 Feb (JH, mob).

**Gadwall:** max 56 RLSP 1-14 Jan (KR, mob); ws reps.

**American Wigeon:** max 9 NCR 8-13 Jan (KMcG, mob); max 12 WL 2-11 Jan (DW).

**Northern Pintail:** max 11 Barrett Pd PUTN 1-2 Jan (ME, mob); 12 CPP 19 Feb (DS), ws reps.

**Canvasback:** max 29 PP 2 Jan-28 Feb (LP, mob); 4 Dockside P PUTN 2 Jan (KB, mob);

SHSR 8-9 Jan (MZ, mob); Five Islands P WEST 1 Jan-2 Feb (KMcG, mob).

**Redhead:** RLSP 1-8 Jan (CC, mob); 2 Five Islands P 2 Jan (BL, JG); Washington L ORAN 10 Jan (JC, mob);

RR 15 Jan-12 Feb (SG, mob); West Branch Res PUTN 20 Jan-8 Feb (SC, mob).

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 450 Sylvan L DUTC 1-18 Jan (CP, mob), ws reps.

**Greater Scaup:** WRNWR 3-14 Dec (MZ, mob); Sackett L SULL 29 Dec (JH); Harriman SP ROCK 1-21 Dec (AW); Lake Carmel PUTN 21 Dec (AMa); MRCC 16 Dec (CR); max 120 EGR 1 Dec-28 Feb (GB, mob).

**Lesser Scaup:** max 5 West Branch Res 19 Jan-23 Feb (SC, mob); max 30 EGR 1 Dec-28 Feb (KMcG, mob).

**Surf Scoter:** 3 EGR 2, 22 Jan (RHe, GB); 2 Milton Pt WEST (SC).

**White-winged Scoter:** 4 EGR 13 Jan (SC); max 4 EGR 13-17 Jan (SC, MT).

**Black Scoter:** Five Islands P 28 Jan (TA); Rye Town P WEST 20 Feb (LC, ST).

**Long-tailed Duck:** NW 1-6 Dec (RD, mob); max 4 RR 28 Dec-3 Jan (SG, JH, mob); Dockside P (KB, CR); max 4 Sylvan L 1-4 Jan (MC, mob).

**Common Goldeneye:** max 80 RR 1 Dec-28 Feb (JH, mob); max 16 EGR 1-31 Dec (GB); max 115 KP 1 Dec-28 Feb (PS, mob); max 10 CPP 1 Dec-28 Feb (AS, mob); 3 Chadwick L ORAN 10 Dec (BN); 3 CPP 11 Dec (SW).

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** River Rd ULST 10 Jan (RM, PS); KP 30 Jan-11 Feb (DvZ, mob); Grinnell St. Rhinebeck DUTC 30 Jan-2 Feb (AMa, mob).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** NW 7 Dec-28 Feb (RD, mob); 3 Dockside P 10 Dec (CR, SC);

WL 11 Dec (MZ); max 7 CPP 8 Jan-20 Feb (SR).

**Ruddy Duck:** max 64 PP 1-14 Jan (AW, mob); max 38 Tarrytown Lakes P WEST 1-9 Jan (PC); max 6 Sylvan L 1 Jan-24 Feb (CP, mob); 35 Beaver Dam L ORAN 2 Jan (BN); max 39 MC 8 Jan-13 Feb (LM, mob); 30 CPP 18 Feb (JW).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** max 6 NCR 1-8 Jan (LT, mob); Washington L ORAN 5-7 Jan (BN); West Branch Res 23-21 Jan (CR, KB).

**Horned Grebe:** WL 1 Jan (DB, MZ); max 15 AR 5-6 Jan (PS, RL); 2 Rye Town P 13 Jan (PC); max 9 EGR 20 Jan-28 Feb (GB, mob).

**Virginia Rail:** CPP 18 Dec (MB).

**American Coot:** 26 WL 1 Dec (KA); max 60 RLSP 1-8 Dec (AW, mob); max 42 NCR 1-8 Dec (MM, mob); max 69 NCR 1 Jan-28 Feb (SCa, mob).

**Killdeer:** Hitchcock Cattle Farm DUTC 19 Jan (JA); EGR 4 Jan (AS); Stony Kill Farm EEC DUTC 4 Jan (DvZ); BSWMA 12 Feb (JH, mob); SGNWR 11 Feb (RM, mob); 2 OCBDR 12 Feb (RS, mob).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Rye Town P 2-19 Jan (KMcG, PC).

**Purple Sandpiper:** max 9 Rye Town P 9 Dec-20 Feb (TB, mob).

**American Woodcock:** Wilderness Walk WEST 19 Dec (ND); MC 23-24 Feb (TB, PC); Stony Kill EEC 22-23 Feb (CK, mob).

**Wilson's Snipe:** OCBDR 26-27 Jan (TS, mob); CIES 19 Jan (JA); max 4 Hurley ULST 6 Feb (MO).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** Swan L SULL 10-19 Dec (SG, JH), very late.

**BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE (R9):** BW 4 Jan (SCa, mob), *intro*.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** Long Dock P (KB, mob); EGR 1 Dec (GB); NW 25 Jan (PC, JC).

**LITTLE GULL (R9):** PP 17 Feb (AW), *intro*.

**FRANKLIN'S GULL:** NW 14 Dec-8 Jan (RD, JC, mob), *intro*.

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 400 NW 18 Jan (BN).

**Herring Gull:** max 1200 NW 25 Jan (YH), ws reps.

**Iceland Gull:** BW 16-17 Dec (DvZ, mob); max 6 NW 6 Dec-28 Feb (BN, mob); BW 1 Jan-5 Feb (GB, mob); Rye Town P 18 Feb (TB, mob).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** BW 1-14 Jan (GB, mob); NW 6-7 Jan (BN, mob); PP 18 Jan (CW); Southern Waterfront P WEST 19 Feb (HW).

**Glaucous Gull:** BW 6-17 Dec (MZ, BN, mob); NW 17 Dec (YH); NW 4-25 Jan (BN, mob).

**Red-throated Loon:** max 4 EGR 1 Jan-20 Feb (GB, mob).

**Common Loon:** max 4 EGR 1 Jan-28 Feb (GB, mob).

**Northern Gannet:** max 2 EGR 7-8 Dec, 12 Feb (GB); Milton Pt 4 Feb (GB).

**Great Cormorant:** max 5 NCR 1-30 Jan (AS, mob); max 8 EGR 1-9 Jan (GB); max 15 Fleischmann's Pier P WEST 3 Jan-13 Feb (MB); max 10 Stony Pt ROCK 10 Feb (AW, mob); max 8 EGR 1 Dec-28 Feb (KMcG, mob).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 5 NCR 1-16 Jan (LO, mob); max 20 Verplanck WEST 2 Jan-28 Feb (DK); Rye Town P 4 Jan-12 Feb (GB, mob).

**American Bittern:** Glenwood L WEST 19 Dec (GF).

**Black Vulture:** max 71 Narrowsburg SULL 16 Jan (SG, JH), ws reps.

**Osprey:** Mahopac PUTN 24 Dec- 4 Jan (JP, AB, mob).

**Golden Eagle:** Pine Plains DUTC 1 Dec (DK); 2 I-84 Hawkwatch ORAN 3 Dec (AA); Kripplebush Rd ULST 20 Dec (DN); Storm King Mt ORAN 4-21 Jan (RD, mob); 2 OCBDR 11 Feb (SW).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** Waterbury Hill Rd DUTC 1-3 Dec (DK, mob); max 2 Beechwoods SULL 5 Dec- 28 Feb (JH, mob); max 9 OCBDR 13 Dec-28 Feb (AA, mob); max 2 SGNWR 4 Jan-28 Feb (SW, mob); OCBDR 3-27 Jan (LS, mob); EMLP 22 Jan (AMA); Abel's Pd DUTC 12-27 Jan (CP, mob); 2 OCBDR 11 Feb (SW), ws reps.

**Snowy Owl:** NW 4 Dec (MZ, mob); 2 PP 14 Dec (SCo, AW, mob).

**Long-eared Owl:** Carmel 2 Jan (PUTN CBC).

**Short-eared Owl:** max 9 SGNWR 1 Dec-28 Feb (RM, mob); max 6 OCBDR 1 Dec-31 Jan (KK, mob); CPP 3 Dec (CR).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Lake Devenoge SULL 16 Dec (NH); Cooper L ULST 27 Jan (PS); Millbrook DUTC 18-23 Feb (AT, mob).

**ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER:**

RSP 19 Dec-1 Jan (RL, SR, mob), *intro*.

**Eastern Phoebe:** NW 18 Dec-6 Jan (JH, mob); Suffern ROCK 10 Jan (AW); BSWMA 7 Feb (JH).

**Northern Shrike:** SGNWR 2-3 Dec (DC, mob); Muthig Rd SULL 7 Dec (JH); Rowe Rd DUTC 19 Dec (MR, mob); Grieg Farm DUTC 29 Dec-8 Jan (RM, mob); WL 5-18 Feb (MZ, mob); BSWMA 15-17 Feb (JH, SG, mob); SGNWR 15 Feb (MB).

**Horned Lark:** max 300 OCBDR 3-31 Jan (BN, mob); max 43 CPP 4-9 Jan (SK, mob); max 250 O'Leary Farm DUTC 10-16 Jan (BM, mob).

**Marsh Wren:** PP 7-9 Dec (LP); WRNWR 14 Dec (TS); CPP 16-18 Dec (CR, MB).

**Gray Catbird:** max 2 CPP 1-8 Dec (AS); VFEP 2-5 Dec (MK, mob); Beechwoods 12 Dec (JH); ws reps.

**MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD:** EMLP 11-25 Jan (JY, mob), *intro*.

**Hermit Thrush:** 40 2 Jan (PUTN CBC), ws reps.

**American Pipit:** max 10 NR 1 Jan (JH, mob); max 12 OCBDR 3-9 Jan (LS, mob); max 6 CPP 7-9 Jan (CR, mob); max 8 OCBDR 18 Jan-7 Feb (RD, mob).

**Purple Finch:** BSWMA 1 Jan (SB); 7 Gibson Hill Rd ORAN 1 Jan (RK); Ulster P ULST 1 Jan (DT); 7 CFSP 2 Jan (KB, mob).

**Common Redpoll:** Livingston Manor SULL 5 Feb (LV, JH).

**White-winged Crossbill:** 8 Hunter Rd SULL 23 Dec (JH).

**Pine Siskin:** 3 West Branch Res 2 Dec (KS); 3 RSP 4 Dec (AS, mob); 2 Roscoe SULL 5-6 Feb (MG, mob).

**Lapland Longspur:** max 5 OCBDR 8 Jan-13 Feb (MZ, mob); Millerton DUTC 8 Jan (JA); 2 O'Leary Farm 22 Jan-14 Feb (AM, mob).

**Snow Bunting:** 300 Posquielo Creekside Rd ULST (PS); max 30 CPP 1-13 Dec (SR, mob); max 40 EGR 4 Dec (GB, mob); max 40 Posquielo Creekside Rd 7 Jan (PS); max 125 OCBDR 8 Jan-16 Feb (BN, mob); max 2 CPP

8 Jan (AS, mob); max 85 BSWMA 5-6 Feb (KM, JH).

**LARK SPARROW:** Campbell Hall ORAN 17 Jan-1 Feb (JC, mob).

**Chipping Sparrow:** 2 VFEP 2 Dec (MK), ws reps.

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** Millerton DUTC 27 Jan (CP).

**Field Sparrow:** max 3 BSWMA 1 Jan-28 Feb (JH, mob); max 2 CPP 4 Jan-16 Feb (LT, mob); max 2 RSP 3-30 Jan (AS, mob); max 10 OCBDR 6 Feb (LS); 4 VFEP 22 Jan (KB).

**Fox Sparrow:** 7 Glynwood Farm PUTN 8 Jan (SC, KB); 8 WL 11 Jan (BT); max 3 PP 5-13 Jan (LP, mob); BSWMA 1 Jan-28 Feb (SB, mob), ws reps.

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 2 Callicoon SULL 8 Dec (JH); 3 Grieg Farm 1 Jan (MR); 6 Glynwood Farm 2 Jan (KB, mob); max 7 Callicoon 3-28 Jan (JH); 14 OCBDR 3 Jan (BN).

**Vesper Sparrow:** Bruyn Ave ORAN 23-28 Jan (MB, mob), *intro*.

**LeCONTE'S SPARROW:** max 2 CPP 2-29 Dec (CR, mob).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** CPP 8 Jan (CR, mob); Wappingers Falls 11 Jan (DvZ); MC 20 Feb (LM).

**Eastern Towhee:** 5 Wonder L SP PUTN 1 Jan (NS); 5 Suffern ROCK 6 Jan (AW); 3 West Pt ORAN 6 Jan (BT), ws reps.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Grape Hollow Rd DUTC 6 Jan (CP, mob).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** max 8 CPP 1-13 Dec (SR, mob); Hankins SULL 12 Dec (JH); max 5 SGNWR 4-13 Dec (MA); 13 New Paltz ULST 24 Dec (AME); 1 RSP 2 Jan (HR); CPP 25 Jan-8 Feb (LT, mob).

**Baltimore Oriole:** Carmel PUTN 4 Dec-9 Jan (JB); Hudson Highlands SP PUTN 1 Jan (KB, mob); OCBDR 11 Jan (LS).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** max 1500 OCBDR 1 Dec-31 Jan (BN, mob).

**Rusty Blackbird:** max 5 BSWMA 27 Dec-13 Jan (JH, SB); 5 Lake Mahopac PUTN 2 Jan (AS); 2 Pruyne Sanctuary WEST 7 Jan-11 Feb (AS, mob); Grieg Farm 8 Jan (DS); max 6 DHCLP 13 Jan-20 Feb (JH, SG).

**Common Grackle:** 1000 Greenville ORAN 2 Jan (BG); 800 Traver Pd DUTC 2 Jan (CP), ws reps.

**BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE:** max 8 Glen I P WEST 16 Dec-8 Jan (LM, EC, mob), *intro*.

**Tennessee Warbler:** NW 9-26 Jan (CM, mob), *intro*.

**Common Yellowthroat:** Greystone WEST 1 Dec (JR).

**Northern Parula:** max 2 NW 17 Dec-26 Jan (AL, mob).

**Yellow Warbler:** NW 17 Dec-24 Feb (SCa, mob).

**Palm Warbler:** West Point ORAN 13 Dec (BT).

**Pine Warbler:** Goosepond Mt SP ORAN 19 Dec (BF); Marbletown O & W Rail Trail ULST 24 Jan (DW, JS).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** max 8 Haverstraw Bay County P ROCK 1-12 Dec (AW, mob), ws reps.

**WESTERN TANAGER:** Putnam Valley PUTN 24 Dec, 9 Jan (KG), *intro*.

**BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK:** Tarrytown WEST 6 Feb (anonymous), *intro*.

**Indigo Bunting:** Rt 209 Cornfield Kingston ULST 11 Jan (RHo).



## REGION 10—MARINE

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Temp	Central Park			Islip		
	Mean	Normal	Deviation	Mean	Normal	Deviation
Dec	43.8°	39.1°	+4.7°	41.7°	37.1°	+4.6°
Jan	30.3°	33.7°	-3.4°	28.8°	31.9°	-3.1°
Feb	32.3°	35.9°	+1.4°	34.7°	33.3°	+1.4°

Precip	Total	Normal	Deviation	Total	Normal	Deviation
Dec	1.39"	4.38"	-2.99"	1.37"	4.71"	-3.34"
Jan	4.29"	3.64"	+0.65"	5.37"	3.66"	+1.71"
Feb	3.23"	3.19"	+0.04"	3.61"	3.29"	+0.32"

As in recent years, December was warm, with temperatures generally in the 40s; the first, evanescent, snowfall was on 24 December. Only in January did the temperature drop into the 20s, the average in late January and early February. A blizzard on 29 January was the only heavy snowfall.

Among the usual wintering waterfowl, the low abundance of some species was notable. The fall-off of Common Eider was most striking: only 39 were tallied on the Montauk CBC (usually over 2,000), and the usual high numbers at Shinnecock Inlet reached a maximum of only 64 in late February. Likewise, only 232 Surf Scoters and 1,271 Black Scoters were recorded on the Montauk CBC, well below counts in recent years, and the highest reports from Long Island after that were 48 Surf and 350 Black Scoters at Montauk. White-winged Scoters, however, showed much their usual abundance in Long Island Sound. The

Southern Nassau CBC recorded low counts for all these species and for Bufflehead (90, down from a ten-year average of 315), Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, and Ruddy Duck, as well as Red-throated Loon and Common Loon (only three, compared to the previous minimum of 94). The decline of Tundra Swan was complete: the small numbers that have long overwintered at Hook Pond (Suffolk) finally dwindled to zero.

Some respectable tallies of Greater Scaup were recorded, including 5,000 at the East Islip Marina (Suffolk) on 19 December. The maximum count of Lesser Scaup was 2,000 in Babylon (Suffolk). The abundance of other *Aythya* species was about average, although a count of 390 Canvasback in Queens was heartening for this declining species. A Tufted Duck x scaup hybrid at the same location was noteworthy. Robust numbers of Green-winged Teal and Wood Duck (62 lingering on the Bronx Zoo grounds until late February) were recorded, but American Wigeon has declined in many areas. Among uncommon but expected species were single Blue-winged Teal in five locations, Eurasian Wigeon in four, and Harlequin Duck in eight, with an exceptional high count of seven in Red Hook (Kings). At least 34 Cackling Geese were spotted, mostly in large flocks of Canada Goose.

Other than *Anatidae*, water birds from the north included Horned Grebe, mostly in modest numbers, and single Red-necked Grebes at eight locations across the length of the Region. A high count of 61 Common Loons at Breezy Point (Queens) was not exceptional, but the 94 Red-throated Loons at Hook Pond (Suffolk) was notable. Among alcids, as many as nine Dovekies were recorded among several sightings, mostly at Montauk; among many reports of Razorbill, a maximum count of 226 signaled a return to the norm from last winter's plenty. Thick-billed Murres were seen at at least seven locations from Kings to Suffolk, at least one Black Guillemot was reported at Culloiden Point near Montauk, and there were single reports of Common Murre and Atlantic Puffin (both offshore). Great Cormorants were seen at five traditional locations in Bronx, Kings, and Suffolk. Only a few sightings of Black-legged Kittiwake were reported, all from Montauk, and although Bonaparte's Gulls were seen at many sites, the maximum count was only 90 (at Ditch Plains, a traditional site in Suffolk); this species has shown a pronounced, steady decline. Lesser Black-backed Gull, in contrast, is overwintering in small but increasing numbers, while the plentiful reports of Iceland and Glaucous Gulls suggest they are holding steady or perhaps increasing. A puzzling gull found by Patrice Domeischel at Oldfield Point (Suffolk) was likely a Herring Gull of the European subspecies (*Larus argentatus argentatus*), as explained in the Notes and Observations article on pp. 136-139.

Land birds visiting the Region from farther north included several Rough-legged Hawks and a multitude of Snowy Owls, reported from at least 40 locations in all counties except New York; five birds were seen on 22 December at Smith Point County Park (Suffolk) and at least three were seen near Shinnecock. Most other owl sightings are (properly) not in the public record, but eBird reports do include a Long-eared Owl in Green-wood Cemetery, Kings, and single Short-

eared Owls at six locations; however, the numbers at EPCAL, the former Grumman site (Suffolk) have declined over the last few years to one in winter 2020-2021 and zero in 2021-2022. Northern Saw-whet Owls were reported from at least 11 locations in four counties, with multiple birds heard at several sites. Barred Owl is not known to breed in the Region at this time, but there were several reports of one, probably the same bird, at Pelham Bay Park (Bronx). Barn Owl is known to be resident at several sites in the Region.

Of the two Northern Shrikes found in the Region, one stayed throughout the period on the North Fork of Long Island and another was seen in Nassau. Lapland Longspurs were seen at six sites in Queens and Long Island, and eight were seen on the CBC in Staten Island. The distribution and numbers of Snow Buntings and of American Tree Sparrows were similar to those in recent years. The most notable sparrow numbers were of White-throated Sparrow, which was exceptionally abundant in many areas; for example, the Southern Nassau CBC recorded 1,285, contrasting with the 10-year mean, 490. Red-breasted Nuthatch was abundant for the second winter in a row. There were many records of Purple Finch, although nowhere in abundance; similarly, of the many, widespread reports of Pine Siskin, all except one were single-digit counts. Single Red Crossbills were seen at Jamaica Bay and central Suffolk, and there were two single-digit reports of White-winged Crossbill. A single redpoll, of undetermined species, flew over Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

Many warm-weather species lingered at least into the early, warmer part of the winter. Among water birds and shorebirds were good numbers of Wood Ducks in a few locations, four Blue-winged Teal, Clapper Rail in seven locations and Virginia Rail also in seven, and two Common Gallinules (one returning for at least the third winter). Among the expected shorebirds were American Oystercatcher, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Long-billed Dowitcher (six returning to their usual site in Nassau), Greater Yellowlegs, and Wilson's Snipe. There were 49 Regional reports of American Woodcock between 1 December and 17 February, and 87 in the 11 days thereafter, perhaps including some returning migrants. More unexpected were Semipalmated and Piping Plovers in mid-winter, a Whimbrel, Western and Least Sandpipers, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Lesser Yellowlegs. Lingering larids included Laughing Gulls and a single Black Skimmer. American Bitterns were seen at five locations, and Great Egrets were widespread, especially in December. More unusual were Snowy Egrets at four sites, one of which stayed through the season; two Cattle Egrets; a Green Heron on 27 December; and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at five sites, with one on Randall's Island until at least 9 February.

Among the many lingering land birds were at least 11 Ospreys, as late as 9 February, and a Broad-winged Hawk in January. Tree Swallows were abundant at certain shore points, as usual. Large flocks of Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, and Brown-headed Cowbird were seen in Suffolk, although the maximum count of Common Grackle (2,245) was in Manhattan. Flocks of 100 or more Boat-tailed Grackles, a relative newcomer to the Region's winter avifauna,

were seen at 25 sites in five counties. Eastern Meadowlark occurred in suitable sites throughout the Region. Gray Catbird was abundant; for example, 49 were tallied on the Southern Nassau CBC, well above the recent average of 14. Eastern Bluebird was reported from 73 sites in Suffolk and 10 sites elsewhere, with a maximum of 47 in East Hampton. Less common or unusual lingering species included several Blue-headed Vireos, Marsh Wrens, Yellow-breasted Chats, and Baltimore Orioles, and single Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Veery, and Wood Thrush.

Among notable sparrows were several reports each of Chipping, Clay-colored, Vesper, Lincoln's, Grasshopper, and Saltmarsh, as well as single Lark and Seaside Sparrows. A remarkable list of 15 species of warblers was compiled over the season, including not only the expected Yellow-rumped, Palm, Pine, and Orange-crowned Warblers, but also Ovenbird, Black-and-white, Nashville, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Cape May, Northern Parula, Blackpoll, Black-throated Blue, Prairie, and Wilson's Warblers. Five Dickcissels were reported in as many counties. Although our corvids are seen year-round, Fish Crow numbers decrease during winter. The only reported roosting aggregation of this species was in Garden City (Nassau), where 2,200 were estimated on 11 February. The maximum number of American Crows reported was 163. Common Raven is now abundant and ubiquitous throughout the Region.

Having saved the good wine for last, we turn to uncommon or rare species. At least seven Barrow's Goldeneyes were found, including a male returning to Crab Meadow Beach (Suffolk) for at least a fourth winter. Single male King Eiders lingered at Shinnecock Inlet and at Great Kills Park (Richmond) throughout the season. Six Sandhill Cranes flew over Pelham Bay Park in December. At least one Western Kingbird frequented the Lake Montauk area at the same time as an Ash-throated Flycatcher in Owl's Head Park (Kings), but surely the Gray Kingbird in Great Kills Park in Richmond was the star tyrannid. Two Western Tanagers were found in Manhattan (New York); the one in Carl Schurz Park was almost certainly the same bird as last winter's. A Henslow's Sparrow in Greenwood Cemetery (Kings) was most unusual. A Pacific Loon photographed in Bayard Cutting Arboretum (Suffolk) unfortunately drifted downstream and could not be refound. At least six Black-headed Gulls were spotted in four counties, and two Short-billed Gulls (split from Common) were found in Staten Island and along the Brooklyn shore. One candidate for the title of rarest was an adult Slaty-backed Gull that frequented the Jacqueline Onassis Reservoir in Central Park for about three weeks, photographed first by Brad Balliett and called to wide attention by Evan Schumann. The other candidate was the one-day Northern Lapwing found by Mike Vedder on 18 December at Santapogue Creek in Babylon, and relocated, after it flew out, by Tim Healy on a golf course to the east. Winter in Region 10 is always rewarding!

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many others who have contributed sightings during this time. (Note: anonymous and pseudonymous eBird reports are generally not included.)

## ABBREVIATIONS

**BBP** – Brooklyn Bridge P, KING; **BPt** – Breezy Pt, QUEE; **BZ** – Bronx Zoo, BRON; **CCP** – Cupsogue CP, SUFF; **CBC** – Christmas Bird Count; **CIC** – Coney I Creek/P, KING; **CP** – Central P, NEWY; **DR** – Dune Rd, CCP to Shinn, SUFF; **EPCAL** – Calverton Grasslands (former Grumman Property), Calverton, SUFF; **et seq.** – observers who saw a bird after the discoverer (from *et sequentes*, “and persons following”); **FBF** – Floyd Bennett Field, KING; **FKP** – Fresh Kills P, RICH; **GBy** – Gravesend Bay, KING; **GI** – Gardiner’s I SUFF; **GKP** – Great Kills P, RICH; **GwC** – Green-wood Cemetery, KING; **HLSP** – Hempstead L SP, NASS; **IHP** – Inwood Hill P, NEWY; **JBSP** – Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWE** – West End, Jones Beach SP, NASS; **JBWR** – Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, QUEE; **JFKMWS** – John F Kennedy Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary, NASS; **Mon** – Montauk, T of East Hampton, SUFF; **MP** – Montauk Pt SP, SUFF; **NB** – Nickerson Beach, NASS; **OMNSA** – Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, NASS; **PatchL** – Patchogue L, Patchogue, SUFF; **PBP** – Pelham Bay P, BRON; **PL** – Point Lookout, NASS; **PP** – Prospect P, KING; **RBA** – NY Rare Bird Alert; **RI** – Randalls I, NEWY; **Riv** – Riverhead, SUFF; **RMSP** – Robert Moses SP, SUFF; **SC** – Santapogue Creek, SUFF; **SCFED** – Suffolk County Farm & Education Center, SUFF; **Shinn** – Shinnecock In, SUFF; **SMNC** – Salt Marsh Nature Center at Marine P, KING **VCP** – Van Cortlandt P, BRON.

**Snow Goose:** max 600 JBWR 5 Feb (DGo, SSI).

**ROSS’S GOOSE (R10):** 2 Eastport SUFF 6 Jan (SSM, PJL); 2 Riv sod fields 15-17 Jan (J. Rand).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Hook Pd, East Hampton SUFF 19 Dec (AnW); Centerport SUFF 24 Dec (TJS) thru; Bridgehampton SUFF 9 Jan 9 (PJL *et al.*); Riv sod fields 13 Jan (SSM, PJL); Sunken Meadow SP SUFF 8 Feb (DC); Mon 13-17 Jan (DC).

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE:** Bridgehampton SUFF 6 Dec - 9 Jan (MSch *et al.*); Stony Brook Univ SUFF 10- 27 Jan (I. Ahuvia *et seq.*); Riv sod fields 21 Jan (KFeu, SFeu); Southampton SUFF 7 Feb (H. Collins); LI North Fork 28 Jan (B. Bolduc).

**Brant:** max 40,000 JBWR 4 Dec (JMcG).

**Cackling Goose:** 7 locs in RICH, 7 in NASS, 20 in SUFF; 3 Caumsett SP SUFF 11 Dec (BF), otherwise singletons.

**Canada Goose:** max 2000 Stony Brook SUFF 11 Dec (J Rand).

**Mute Swan:** 125 Watermill SUFF 9 Jan (CG).

**Wood Duck:** max 66 BZ 16 Jan (T Olson).

**Blue-winged Teal:** HLSP 11 Dec - 6 Jan (B. Belford); Mill Pd, Bellmore NASS 13 Dec (C.

Houck); PatchL 1 Dec-28 – 28 Jan (DF); Eastport SUFF 27 Dec (S. Biasetti).

**Northern Shoveler:** max 450 CP 14 Jan (K Topping).

**Gadwall:** max 400 Swan L, Patchogue SUFF 18 Jan (DC).

**Eurasian Wigeon:** Bush Terminal Piers P KING 16 Jan – 28 Feb (S. Blodgett *et seq.*); JBWR 5 Dec - 27 Feb (JMcG); Oyster Bay NASS 7 Dec - 14 Jan (BG); PatchL 3-28 Jan (APE).

**American Wigeon:** max 380 JBWR 4 Dec (JMcG).

**Mallard:** max 660 Mattituck SUFF 17 Jan (J Brooks Jr.).

**American Black Duck:** max 500 Tobay Beach P NASS 28 Jan (M. Chitulescu).

**Northern Pintail:** max 45 PatchL 16 Feb (M. Higgiston).

**Green-winged Teal:** max 300 26<sup>th</sup> Ward wastewater treatment plant KING 18 Dec (J. Malbin).

**Canvasback:** 1 site in RICH, 1 in NEWY, 4 in QUEE, 2 in NASS, 20 in SUFF; max 380 Watermill SUFF 17 Feb (M. Higgiston).

**Redhead:** Baisley Pd P QUEE 13 Dec thru; max 74 24 Dec (CF); 27 Babylon SUFF 24 Jan

(E. Schwinn); Amityville SUFF max 67 2 Feb (EMu).

**Ring-necked Duck:** max 609 PatchL 4 Jan (PJV).

**TUFTED DUCK (R10) x scaup sp:** World's Fair marina QUEE 8 Dec (CF *et al.*).

**Greater Scaup:** max 5000 East Islip marina SUFF 19 Dec (ABk).

**Lesser Scaup:** max 2000 SC 8 Jan (J. Rand).

**King Eider:** GKP 2 Dec thru (CF *et seq.*); Shinn 28 Dec thru (KFeu *et seq.*).

**Common Eider:** max 78 DR (KFeu, SFeu).

**Harlequin Duck:** max 7 Red Hook KING 28 Dec (P.Paul *et al.*); at PL 7 Dec thru, max 6 25 Jan (W. Shafer); 5 sites in SUFF, max 3 Shinn 19 Jan (E. Schwinn, M. Higgiston).

**Surf Scoter:** max 200 Lemon Creek RICH 2 Jan (ACi).

**White-winged Scoter:** max 1500 Riv 19 Dec (P. Bealle).

**Black Scoter:** max 350 MP 17 Jan (C. Hinkle).

**Long-tailed Duck:** max 2000 BPt 24 Feb.

**Bufflehead:** max 350 JBWR 4 Dec (JMcG).

**Common Goldeneye:** max 250 Arden Ave RICH 17 Jan (ACi).

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** Crab Meadow Beach SUFF 6-30 Jan (KFeu, SFeu); Cedar Beach SUFF 14 Jan (APe); Wildwood SP SUFF (B. Bolduc); Cedar Pt CP SUFF 26 Dec (CG).

**Hooded Merganser:** max 210 HLSP 13 Dec (E. Becher).

**Common Merganser:** max 216 L Ronkonkoma SUFF 27 Feb (PJV, SSM).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** max 275 JBSP 26 Jan (KFeu & SFeu).

**Ruddy Duck:** max 1200 Eastport SUFF 6 Jan (SSM, PJL); 1200 CP 13 Jan (J. Wooten).

**Wild Turkey:** many sites in RICH, SUFF.

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** max 55 Orient SUFF 12 Feb (J Rand), likely stocked for hunting.

**Northern Bobwhite:** max 12 East Farm Pres, Stony Brook SUFF, known release program; other singeltons in a few sites in SUFF, NASS, likely lucky escapes from stocks for hunting.

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 8 sites in RICH, 1 BRON, 3 NEWY, 6 KING, 5 QUEE, 1 NASS, 36 SUFF.

**Horned Grebe:** max 108 FBF 31 Jan (DGo, P. Paul).

**Red-necked Grebe:** 2 JBWE 13 Dec (N. Zachary); Culloden Pt SUFF 9 Jan (SSM, PJL, DF), 22 Jan (CG).

**Rock Pigeon:** throughout.

**Mourning Dove:** max 200 QUEE 19 Dec (A. Scott).

**Clapper Rail:** Saw Mill Creek RICH 18 Dec (C. Barron); Brookfield P RICH 22 Jan (ACi); SMNC 15 Dec - 28 Feb (HL); 1-2 JBWR 1-18 Dec; Lawrence NASS 2 Jan (MA); OMNSA 30 Dec - 9 Feb (M. Farina); Bayville NASS 4 Feb (K. Winters); DR 25 Jan (SFeu & KFeu).

**Virginia Rail:** 2 River Rd RICH 18 Dec (ACi); Brookfield P RICH 18 Dec (ACi); Massapequa Pres NASS 11 Dec (J. Rand); 6 Mon 16 Jan; Makamah Pres SUFF 20 Jan (JGI); SCFED 15 Dec (E. Goodman); Oakdale SUFF 19 Dec (MMcB); 3 Swan Ri Pres, E Patchogue SUFF 12 Jan - 8 Feb (DMM, TMo *et seq.*).

**Common Gallinule:** Bellmore Mill Pd NASS 4 Dec thru (K. Long); 2, same site 5-27 Feb (J. Garzero).

**American Coot:** max 50 Baisley P QUEE 31 Dec (CF).

**SANDHILL CRANE (R10):** 6 PBP 28 Dec (J. Rothman).

**American Oystercatcher:** 68 FBF 3 Dec (HL); 2 JBWR 22 Jan (A. Schroeder); 6 Cow Meadow P NASS 2 Jan (MMcB); JBWE 2 Dec - 24 Feb, max 47 (2 Dec, LW); 5 Oak Beach SUFF 4 Dec (T. Connell); 7 Ponquogue Br SUFF 3-10 Dec (L. Betti, PD).

**NORTHERN LAPWING:** 1 SC 18 Dec (M. Vedder *et seq.*); *intro.*

**Black-bellied Plover:** 4 locs in RICH; max 42 FBF 11 Dec (HL, MY); NB max 51 6 Jan (BG); 97 PL 24 Jan (JWP); 20 CCP 4 Dec (N. Henderson).

**Killdeer:** many sites; max 25 Goethals Br Pd RICH 27 Feb (ACi).

**Semipalmated Plover:** Sammy's Beach SUFF 9 Dec (AColl); JBWE 2 Jan (S. Camillieri *et al.*).

**Piping Plover:** JBWE 21 Dec (K. Werner); PL 27 Jan (J. Suzuki, J. Wooten); 3 RMSP 2 Feb (PJV, SSM).

**Whimbrel:** DR 12 Feb (G. Hershkovics).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** 4 sites in RICH, 1 NEWY, 3 QUEE, 7 NASS, 18 SUFF; high counts 46 Hither Hills Campground SUFF 18 Dec (APE), 93 Gardiners Bay 27 Jan (A. Farnsworth), 311 GI 2 Feb (A. Farnsworth).

**Red Knot:** 11 sites in KING, NASS, QUEE, thru; 74 on Brooklyn CBC (FBF and JBWR).

19 Dec; max single count 25 JBWE 12 Jan (M. Zito).

**Sanderling:** high counts 350 JBSP 1 Dec (KFeu), 500 BPt 18 Dec (HL, T. Preston); 1100 Brooklyn CBC 18 Dec, record high.

**Dunlin:** max 4000 JFKMWS 26 Feb (BG, JWP).

**Purple Sandpiper:** 4 sites in RICH, 1 BRON, 1 NEWY, 9 KING, 6 QUEE, 7 NASS; 15 SUFF; max 60 JBWE 25 Jan (E. Becher).

**Least Sandpiper:** GKP 26 Feb (ACi).

**Western Sandpiper:** PL 7 Dec (E. Becher); OMNSA 2 Jan (MA).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** JBWE 1 Dec (KFeu), 19 Dec (JMcG), 8 Jan (D. Hannay); PL 6 Jan (BG); NB 21 Feb (KFeu); SC 18-20 Dec (BF).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** 6 SC 9 Dec (F&SMu) dwindling to 1 on 26 Jan; JBWE 25 Jan (E. Becher).

**American Woodcock:** all counties in Dec and in late Feb; Jan and early Feb reports RI 11 Jan (N. Mendoza); Baldwin Harbor P NASS P 2 Jan (SSM), JFKMWS 2 Jan; Stony Brook SUFF 25 Jan (DC), North Fork Pres SUFF 19 Jan (DC).

**Wilson's Snipe:** Brookfield P RICH 27 Jan (ACi), and 6 here 2 Feb (K. Rossi); SMNC 6 Dec (HL); Alley Pd P QUEE 24 Jan (K. Wing); Glen Cove NASS 26 Jan - 11 Feb (BG); 17 sites in SUFF, thru; max 7 Georgica Cove Hollow SUFF 5 Feb (AnW).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** 5 Goethals Bridge P RICH 17 Dec, 1 on 8 Jan (ACi); HLSP 1-9 Dec (E. Becher).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** 1 site in RICH, 4 in KING, 7 in QUEE, ca. 30 in NASS, ca. 32 in SUFF, thru; high counts 17 SC 16 Dec, 17 Cedar Pt SUFF 28 Dec, 42 Rockville Ctr NASS 16 Dec.

**Dovekie:** MP reports 9 Jan – 16 Feb; 9 Jan (PJL, SSM); 3 17 Jan (P. Markee), 3 16 Feb (SSM, PJL); 2 Culloden Pt SUFF 14 Jan (TMo, DMM).

**Common Murre:** 4 Hudson Shelf 21 Feb. (E. Martin).

**THICK-BILLED MURRE:** 17 Jan CIC (SSI); 17 Jan Bellport SUFF (MSch, EMu); Shinn 22 Jan (TMo); Tiana Beach SUFF 22 Jan (DF); Fort Tilden QUEE 24 Jan (CF), 28 Jan Shinn (P. Aitken); Tiana Beach SUFF 2 Feb (E. Schwinn); GKP 4-10 Feb (ACi); GBY 20 Feb (R. Manian, D. Hrehowsik); JBWE 26 Feb (T. Derrick).

**Razorbill:** 2 sites in KING, 3 in QUEE; 7 in NASS, 12 in SUFF. MP reports 5 Dec thru, max 226 8 Jan (JGl *et al.*).

**Black Guillemot:** Culloden Pt SUFF 22 Jan (AColl, P. Ribolow).

**ATLANTIC PUFFIN:** 2 Hudson Valley Shelf 21 Feb. (E. Martin).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** MP reports: 30 (max) 9 Jan (SSM, PJL, DF); 23 Jan (A. Burke); 4 4 Jan (SSM); 23 Feb (P. Markee).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 24 sites in RICH, KING, QUEE, NASS, SUFF (13 sites); max 90 Ditch Plains, Mon 21 Feb (LW).

**Black-headed Gull:** 2, sites on coast of KING 22 Dec-thru, 2 together Plumb Beach KING 19 Feb (J. Malbin); RI 20 Jan (E. Leonardii); JBWE 8-22 Jan (PJL, SSM); GI 18 Dec (AnW); Setauket SUFF 19 Jan thru (PD).

**Laughing Gull:** 48 PL 1 Dec; 77 (max) BPt 4 Dec (HL); 36 JBWE 5 Dec (E. Becher); GBY 8 Dec (S. Blodgett); 3 BPt 1 Dec (J. Thorp); last CIC 2 Jan (D. Hrehowsik *et al.*).

**SHORT-BILLED GULL:** KING shore sites 21-31 Dec (ABk *et seq.*).

**COMMON/SHORT-BILLED GULL:** Miller Field RICH 17 Jan (R. Veit *et seq.*). RV notes “the small bill, splotchy head and wing tip pattern combine to favor L.c brachyrhynchus”....

**Ring-billed Gull:** max 5230 BBP 24 Feb (DGo).

**Herring Gull:** max 800 CP 2 Feb (R. Messbauer). Reports of hybrids between Herring and Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Glaucous; adult evidently European *L. a. argentatus*, Oldfield Pt SUFF 22 Feb thru (PD *et seq.*), *intro.*

**Iceland Gull:** 3 sites in RICH, 2 in NEWY (3 birds), 3 in KING ( $\geq 4$  birds); 3 in NASS, 20 in SUFF ( $>25$  birds); throughout period.

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** PP 15 Dec (R. Mandelbaum); Southard's Pd SUFF 15 Dec (C. Cammarota); 2 Atlantic Beach NASS 2 Jan (DF); Sheepshead Bay KING 9 Jan (T. Preston); CP (rep. T. Fiore); DR 29 Jan (DF); 6 JBSP 29 Jan (KFeu, SFeu); Oldfield Pt SUFF 21 Feb (K. Coyle); Stony Brook SUFF 21 Feb (PD).

**SLATY-BACKED GULL:** CP 31 Jan – 18 Feb (B. Balliett, E. Schumann *et al.*), *intro.*

**Glaucous Gull:** 3 sites in RICH, 1 in BRON, 2 in NEWY,  $\geq 2$  in KING, 2 in QUEE, 1 in NASS, 7 in SUFF; max 3 Bellport SUFF 21 Jan (T. Connell).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** max 300 Midland Beach RICH 1 Jan (ACi).

**Black Skimmer:** Coney I KING 5 Dec (P. Paul *et al.*).

**Red-throated Loon:** max 94 Hook Pd SUFF 5 Dec (J. Milton).

**PACIFIC LOON:** Bayard Cutting Arboretum, Oakdale SUFF 19 Feb (JGI).

**Common Loon:** 58 JBSP 2 Feb (A. Honeywood).

**Northern Gannet:** max 3500 GKP 10 Dec (ACi).

**Great Cormorant:** 4 Orient Pt SUFF 5 Dec (J. Rand); 12 FBF 11 Dec (HL); 8 PBP 2 Jan (P. Horan); 16 Orient Pt SUFF 14 Jan (SSM); 6 MP 5 Jan (AnW); max 35 BPt 30 Jan (SSI, DGo).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** max 250 Seaside Nature P RICH 12 Dec (T. Winston, D. Spawn).

**American Bittern:** JBWR 12 Dec - 16 Feb; JFKMWS 12 Jan thru (M. Zito); Northville SUFF 19 Dec (ML Lamont); 1-2 DR 12 Jan - 5 Feb (KFeu, SFeu *et al.*).

**Great Blue Heron:** throughout Region and period.

**Great Egret:** 6 sites in RICH, 4 in BRON, 2 in KING, 6 in QUEE, 19 in NASS, 68 in SUFF (thru).

**Snowy Egret:** Southampton SUFF 5 Dec (DMM, TMo); Setauket Harbor SUFF 26 Dec - 24 Feb (PD *et seq.*); Captree I SUFF 11 Dec (PJL).

**Cattle Egret:** 11 Dec JBWE (P. Horan); Caumsett SP SUFF 17 Dec 18 Dec. (D. McDowell, *fide* SFeu).

**Green Heron:** Timber Point Golf Course SP SUFF 27 Dec (PJL).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 1 site in RICH, 12 in BRON, 4 in KING, 7 in QUEE, 12 in NASS, 20 in SUFF (thru); max 75 Cammans Pd P Merrick NASS 3 Dec (M. Ventresca).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:**  
RI 1 Dec - 9 Feb (2 on 5 Dec) (M B. Kooper); World's Fair Marina QUEE 19-22 Dec (D. Spawn); Camman's Pd P (NASS) 17 Dec - 4 Jan (F. Nicoletti); JBWR 18 Dec (SSI); 3 Moriches Bay SUFF 27 Dec - 4 Jan (F&SMu).

**Black Vulture:** 16 sites in RICH, to 21 Feb; 4 in BRON; 4 in NEWY, max count 19 IHP 12

Dec (D. Aronov); 2 in KING thru; 4 in QUEE; 2 in NASS; 7 in SUFF.

**Turkey Vulture:** many records throughout; max count 48 Riv 24 Dec (K. J. Klein).

**Osprey:** 9 records in RICH, BRON, NASS, SUFF 5 Dec - 9 Feb (Feb record Mon, L. Watts).

**Northern Harrier:** throughout.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** throughout.

**Cooper's Hawk:** throughout.

**Bald Eagle:** many records throughout.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 6 sites in RICH, 4 in BRON, 4 NEWY, 8 in KING, 3 in QUEE, 3 in NASS, 11 in SUFF; max count 3 CP 19 Dec, R. Zucker).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** PP 16 Jan (R. Goldberg *et al.*).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** abundant throughout.

**Rough-legged Hawk:** single birds GI 16 Dec (AnW); Ferry Pt P BRON 12 Jan (P. Horan); EPCAL 5-10 Feb (PJL, SSM); Riv sod fields 10 Feb (R. Valente); Short's Pd SUFF (R. Valente).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** 95 eBird records, incl. 1 site in BRON, 1 in NEWY, 9 in RICH, 1 in KING, 2 in QUEE, 17 in NASS, >48 in SUFF.

**Great Horned Owl:** many sites, all counties. Noted on eggs 25 Jan, Northville SUFF (ML. Lamont).

**Snowy Owl:** 1 site in BRON, 1 in RICH, 4 in QUEE (max count 4, BPt 22 Jan, M. Epstein), 6 in KING, 5 in NASS, ca. 23 in SUFF, incl. counts of 3 in Shinn (7 Dec, S. Savage; 13 Dec, R. Haimes), 3 CCP (27 Dec, R. Valente), 2 Shagwong Pt Mon 18 Dec (TH, T. Ambrico), 3 GI 18 Dec (AnW); 5 Smith Pt CP SUFF 22 Dec 9 (K. Cashman).

**BARRED OWL (R10):** 10 reports (1 bird?) PBP 14 Dec - 2 Jan.

**Long-eared Owl:** GwC 5 Dec (m.ob.); no other public reports.

**Short-eared Owl:** Edgemere landfill QUEE 19-30 Dec (CF *et al.*), JBWE 8 Jan (SSM, PJL); JFKMWS 26 Feb (BG); CCP 11 Feb (F&SMu); Sagaponack Pd SUFF 11 Feb (CG); Napeague SP SUFF 16 Feb (F&SMu).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** reports 8 Dec - 22 Jan at 1 site in NEWY, 1 in QUEE, 3 in NASS, 7 in SUFF.

**Belted Kingfisher:** 2,017 eBird lists, throughout Region.

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** 1 PBP 26 Dec (M. Chitulescu and I. Resnick).  
**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** 7,234 eBird lists.  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** 2,303 eBird lists.  
**Downy Woodpecker:** 7,836 eBird lists.  
**Hairy Woodpecker:** 1,683 eBird lists.  
**Northern Flicker:** throughout.  
**PILEATED WOODPECKER (R10):** VCP 3 Dec (S. Keelan), 3 Jan (T. Graves); 7 sites in RICH; 1 QUEE 7 Jan ("Fratercula arctica", note: reluctantly citing pseudonym only because of importance of record.)

**American Kestrel:** many records in NEWY, KING, inland QUEE; 13 sites in NASS, 33 in SUFF. Max count 5, FBF 12 Dec (J. Thorpe).  
**Merlin:** many records throughout.  
**Peregrine Falcon:** many records, especially in NEWY and along coast to MP, denser to the west.

**Monk Parakeet:** 1 site in RICH, 1 in NEWY, 5 in BRON, 5 in KING (max count 29, GwC), 10 in QUEE (max 10 in Kissena Corridor P QUEE), 21 in NASS (max 54 Norman J. Levy P), 18 in western SUFF (max 26 Irmisch P).

**ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER:** Owl's Head P KING 17 Dec – 7 Jan (A. Ferino, R. Manian).

**Western Kingbird:** W Lake Dr Mon 18-19 Dec (discovered during CBC, MMCB, M. D. McBrien *et seq.*); E Lake Dr Mon 8-9 Jan (JGI, V. Bustamante).

**GRAY KINGBIRD:** GKP cont from 29 Nov – 8 Dec (found by out-of-state birders C. Cremer, N. Pietrunti and subsequently seen by mob); *intro.*

**Eastern Phoebe:** 1 record RICH (1 Dec); 1 NEWY (12 Dec - 30 Jan); 2 KING 4 Dec – 27 Jan); 3 QUEE (10 Dec – 11 Jan); 2 NASS (4 Dec, 19 Dec); 13 SUFF (to 20 Feb).

**Blue-headed Vireo:** singles GwC 3 Dec (M. Silber); FBF 11 Dec (MY), 14 Jan (R. Fleming, J. Gramm); Orchard Beach BRON 26 Dec (EMu); Gardiner P SUFF 21 Dec (PJJ, SSM).

**NORTHERN SHRIKE (R10):** North Fork Pres SUFF 2 Dec (K. J. Klein) thru; Norman Levy Pres NASS 21-23 Dec (B. Belford).

**Blue Jay:** throughout.

**American Crow:** max 163 PP 14 Feb (T. Russo).

**Fish Crow:** max 2200 Garden City NASS roost 11 Feb (R. Proniewych, DF).

**Common Raven:** 27 sites in RICH, 16 BRON, ca. 40 NEWY, ca. 40 KING, ca. 45 QUEE, ca. 80 NASS, ca. 140 SUFF.

**Black-capped Chickadee:** max 50 Elizabeth A. Morton NWR SUFF 12 Feb (I. Ahuvia).

**Tufted Titmouse:** max 30 East Hampton SUFF 17 Jan (AColl).

**Horned Lark:** max 150 Calverton SUFF 27 Dec 9 (J. Bohrer, D. Bohrer).

**Tree Swallow:** shore points in RICH, KING, QUEE, NASS, SUFF, thru; max 1000 BPt 18 Dec (MY).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** records throughout; thru.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** records throughout; thru.

**Cedar Waxwing:** max 1670 IHP 7 Dec (D. Aronov).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** 1 site in RICH, 3 BRON, 1 NEWY, 18 NASS, 50 SUFF, thru; high counts 14 JBWE 3 Dec (J. Rothman), 16 JBWE 2 Jan (LW).

**White-breasted Nuthatch:** throughout.

**Brown Creeper:** all counties; max 10 CP 8 Dec (S. Freytes).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** CP 4 Dec (B. Stadler).

**House Wren:** single birds North Fork SUFF 3 Dec 9 (J. Sepenoski); Mashomack Pres. SUFF 4 Dec (N. Hamblet); CP 5 Dec (A. Burke); Spring Creek P KING 12 Dec (J. Malbin); BBP 14 Dec (H. Wolf); 18 Dec GI (TJS).

**Winter Wren:** throughout.

**Marsh Wren:** RICH: 3 sites, latest 27 Jan; NASS 5 sites, to 4 Jan; SUFF 14 sites, to 26 Jan (Heckscher SP SUFF, KFeu & SFeu); max 4 SMNC 10 Feb (HL).

**Carolina Wren:** throughout. 171 count on Southern Nassau CBC (10-year mean = 79).

**Gray Catbird:** max 16 BBP 29 Dec (H. Wolf); 18 GI 18 Dec (TJS).

**Brown Thrasher:** 4 sites in RICH, 1 in BRON, 1 in NEWY (CP, thru), 3 in QUEE, 6 in NASS (to 20 Feb), 26 in SUFF.

**Northern Mockingbird:** throughout.

**European Starling:** max 1600 FKP 8 Dec (R. Zucker).

**Eastern Bluebird:** 3 sites in RICH, 2 in KING, 1 in QUEE, 4 in NASS, 73 in SUFF (thru); max 47 Northwest Harbor CP SUFF 26 Dec (Orient CBC).

**Veery:** Calverton SUFF 27 Dec (E. Schwinn).

**Hermit Thrush:** many records throughout.

**Wood Thrush:** Bella Abzug P NEWY 5 Dec (L. LaBella).

**American Robin:** counts in the hundreds at multiple sites in RICH, SUFF; max 5400 Sag Harbor SUFF 31 Dec (CG).

**House Sparrow:** throughout.

**American Pipit:** 4 sites in RICH, 3 in NEWY, 4 in QUEE, 5 in NASS, 26 in SUFF; max 100 Calverton SUFF 30 Jan (DC).

**House Finch:** max 135 KINGS 28 Jan (DGo).

**Purple Finch:** 9 sites in RICH, 3 in BRON, 2 in KING, 4 in QUEE, 10 in NASS, 11 in SUFF; max 11 SCFED 28 Jan (DC).

**Common Redpoll:** 1 "Common/Hoary" JBWR 6 Feb (DGo, SSi).

**Red Crossbill:** JBWE 12 Dec (J. Gold); Central Suffolk CBC (E. Schwinn, compiler).

**White-winged Crossbill:** 6 RMSP 3 Dec (V. Pellegrino), 1 EPCAL 6 Feb (MMcB).

**Pine Siskin:** 4 reports in KING, 4 in QUEE, 11 in SUFF; 5 Dec - 24 Feb; mostly single-digit counts, max 40 Avalon Pres SUFF 24 Feb (TMo).

**American Goldfinch:** max 94 Head of the Harbor SUFF 27 Dec (PD, L. Betti).

**Lapland Longspur:** 8 Freshkills P RICH 18 Dec (R. Zucker); 1 BPt 8 Jan (SSi); 1-3 NB 7 Dec - 27 Feb (various); PL 22 Dec (V. Pellegrino); JBSP 1-27 Feb (various); RMSP 23 Dec (SSM, PJL).

**Snow Bunting:** many coastal sites in all counties except BRON; entire period; max 122 Port Jefferson SUFF 6 Jan (A. Colucci).

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** RI 11 Dec (G. Willow); EPCAL 31 Jan (TMo); Mattituck SUFF 1 Feb (B. Bolduc); Calverton SUFF 3 Feb (K. Coyle); Southold SUFF 30 Jan. (J. Sepenoski).

**Lark Sparrow:** Hendrix Creek KING 19 Dec (R. Cech, CBC).

**Chipping Sparrow:** multiple sites in all counties, thru; max 21 Nissequogue Ri SP SUFF 27 Dec (LW).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** single birds at 8 sites in SUFF 19 Dec - 6 Feb.

**Field Sparrow:** multiple sites, all counties.

**Fox Sparrow:** max 25 PBP 6 Feb (M. Chitulescu).

**American Tree Sparrow:** many sites, all counties; max 25 GKP 24 Feb (BJ Dooley).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** throughout; max 112 Kings Pt P NASS 26 Dec (R. Taylor).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** all counties except NEWY; max 17 Calverton SUFF 3 Jan (K. Coyle).

**White-throated Sparrow:** abundant throughout; max 270 Sands Pt NASS 18 Dec (G. Quinn).

**Vesper Sparrow:** 2 PL 1 Dec (BG); 4 CCP 30 Dec (T. Mansfield); 2 FKP 14 Dec (J. Ramirez-Garofalo); 4 SCFED 6 Jan (PD) to 21 Feb; Caumsett SP SUFF 2 Feb (KFeu, SFeu); Shinn 9 Feb (P. Aitken).

**Seaside Sparrow:** DR 1 Feb (KFeu, SFeu).

**Nelson's Sparrow:** SMNC 16 Dec (HL); OMNSA 2 Jan (MA, ph.).

**Saltmarsh Sparrow:** OMNSA 2 Jan (MA, ph); DR 31 Jan (TMo).

**HENSLOW'S SPARROW:** GwC 5 Dec (T. Russo *et al.*).

**Savannah Sparrow:** throughout. Max 30 FKP 14 Dec (J. Ramirez-Garofalo).

**Song Sparrow:** throughout.

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** Governor's I NEWY 5 Dec (A. Barry); Orient SUFF 5 Dec (B. Bolduc); Greeley Sq NEWY 28 Feb (R. Poerner).

**Swamp Sparrow:** many sites, thru; max 23 GI 18 Dec (TJS).

**Eastern Towhee:** 6 sites in RICH, 6 BRON, 5 NEWY, 5 KING, 9 QUEE, 9 NASS, 90 SUFF; thru.

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** Bella Abzug P NEWY 5-17 Dec (L. LaBella); Governor's I NEWY 14 Dec (MB. Kooper); Calvert Vaux P KING 4 Dec (A. Ferino); Norman Levy P NASS 29-31 Dec (LW, M. Watros); Culloden Pt SUFF 18 Dec thru (MMcB); Mon 23-28 Jan (PD, L. Betti); Theodore Roosevelt CP SUFF 28 Jan (S. Biasetti *et al.*).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** 1-4 PBP 2 Dec - 19 Feb (P. Horan); 1-4 Shirley Chisholm SP KING 18 Dec - 22 Feb (J. Malbin); 28 Edgemere Landfill QUEE 19 Dec (MA); 3

sites in NASS, 19 in SUFF, incl. EPCAL (max 23, 10 Feb, J. Rand), GI (30, 24 Feb, A. Farnsworth).

**Baltimore Oriole:** 1 site in RICH, 5 in KING (to 17 Feb), 1 in QUEE, 6 in NASS, 6 in SUFF).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** in 370 eBird lists, throughout Region; max 1000 Oregon Rd, Southold SUFF 12 Feb (MSch).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** throughout; max 300 East Hampton 23 Jan (AColl).

**Rusty Blackbird:** 9 sites in RICH, 4 in BRON, 2 in NEWY, 1 in KING, 5 in QUEE, 13 in NASS, 32 in SUFF; max 36 VCP 24 Feb (M. Waldron).

**Common Grackle:** records throughout Region, several counts 2000 or more; max 2245 Fort Washington NEWY 12 Dec (A. Burke, A. Cunningham).

**Boat-tailed Grackle:** coastal sites in RICH, BRON, QUEE, NASS, SUFF; thru; max 703 JBWR 19 Dec (E. Miller *et al.*).

**Ovenbird:** singles in 6 sites in NEWY, to 22 Jan (L. LaBella).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** CP 1-6 Dec (S. Holliday, D. B. Yolton *et al.*); RI 18 Dec (D. Aronov); Corona P QUEE 19 Dec (A. Scott).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** 8 sites in RICH, 3 in BRON, 5 in NEWY, 7 in KING, 6 in QUEE, 8 in NASS, 16 in SUFF; latest 5 Feb.

**Nashville Warbler:** Sherman Creek P NEWY 5 Dec (B. Balliett); CoOp City BRON 30 Dec (R. Aracil); S. Nassau CBC 2 Jan (S. Camillieri).

**Common Yellowthroat:** Shirley SUFF 29 Dec (APe); Brooklyn Bridge P KING 14 Dec (H. Wolf); 8 sites in NEWY, last 17 Jan (A. Auerbach).

**American Redstart:** CP 8 Dec (m. ob.); PP 1 Dec - 4 Jan (m. ob.); Dyker Beach P KING 4 Jan (T. Preston).

**Cape May Warbler:** Hofstra Univ NASS 2 Jan (C. Eliot, M. Grey).

**Northern Parula:** Tanglewood Pres NASS 1 Dec (ph.); PP 9 Dec - 2 Jan (m. ob.); VCP 12 Dec (T. Trombone).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** Centerport SUFF 5 Dec, found dead (A. Laurie).

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** Conference House P RICH 5-23 Dec (R. Veit).

**Palm Warbler:** 16 records in RICH, NEWY, KING, NASS, latest 8 Jan (Goethals Bridge P RICH (ACi)).

**Pine Warbler:** 2 sites in RICH, 1 in NEWY, 3 in KING, 1 in QUEE, 13 in SUFF; latest CP 15 Feb (A. Deutsch).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** all counties, plentiful especially near coast; max 300 JBSP 1 Feb (E. Becher).

**Prairie Warbler:** RI 5 Dec (A. Cunningham).

**Wilson's Warbler:** PP 4-12 Dec (L. Ewing).

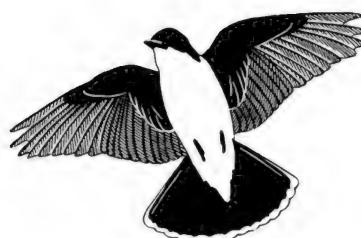
**WESTERN TANAGER:** Carl Schurz P NEWY 1 Dec thru (m. ob.); Clinton Comm Garden NEWY 13 Dec - 22 Jan (A. Burke *et al.*); CP 15-16 Dec (K. John).

**Northern Cardinal:** abundant throughout.

**Dickcissel:** OMNSA 1 Dec - 4 Jan (m. ob.); IHP 5-19 Dec (W. Andermann); PP 24 Dec - 8 Feb (m. ob.); Chester Ave RICH 13 Feb (M. Shanley).

## EXOTICS

**European Goldfinch:** PP 12 Dec-27 Jan (1-3 birds); Arthur Sommers P KING 28 Dec - 2 Feb (2 birds); GwC 16-26 Dec (1 bird).



## **REPORTING YOUR OBSERVATIONS**

Observers are strongly encouraged to report their findings directly to the Regional Editors, to help identify significant trends. Summary reports of observations; impressions of notable patterns in the weather, timing of migration, unusual scarcity or abundance of particular species, etc.; and notable individual records are highly valued. For maximum usefulness, send in reports no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month following the end of each season:

15 March, 15 June, 15 September, and 15 December.

## **STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS**

Regional rarities appear in BOLD; county names are shortened to their first four letters and appear in UPPER CASE letters; months are shortened to their first three letters. In species accounts: number of individuals omitted implies that one individual was reported; ! – details seen by Regional Editor; ad – adult; alt – alternate plumage; arr – arrival or first of season; BBS – Breeding Bird Survey; BOTS – bird of the season; CBC – Christmas Bird Count; Co – County; I – Island; imm – immature; intro – see introduction to report; juv – juvenile; L – Lake; max – maximum; mob – multiple observers; Mt – Mountain; NYSDEC – New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; NWR – National Wildlife Refuge; NYSARC – report to New York State Avian Records Committee; P – park; Pd – Pond; ph – photographed; Pres – Preserve; Pt – Point; Res – Reservoir; Ri – River; SP – State Park; spm – specimen; subad – subadult; T – Town of; thru – throughout period; Twn – township; WMA – Wildlife Management Area; y – young.

## **BREEDING BIRD ATLAS CODES**

These codes are listed in ascending order to highest breeding codes.

**POSSIBLE:** H – in appropriate habitat; S – singing bird.

**PROBABLE:** S7 – singing male present 7+ days; M – multiple (7+) singing males; P – pair in suitable habitat; T – territorial defense; C – courtship, display, or copulation; N – visiting probable nest site; A – agitated behavior; B – woodpecker/wren nest building.

**CONFIRMED:** PE – physiological evidence; CN – carrying nesting material; NB – nest building; DD – distraction display; UN – used nest; ON – occupied nest; FL – recently fledged and precocial young; CF – carrying food; FY – feeding young; FS – carrying fecal sac; NE nest with eggs; NY – nest with young.

## **REPORTING REGIONS**

Regional boundaries coincide with county lines, except at:

Region 1-Region 2 in Orleans, Genesee and Wyoming Counties:

the boundary is NY Route 98 from Pt. Breeze to Batavia; NY Route 63 from Batavia to Pavilion, and NY Route 19 from Pavilion to the Allegany County line.

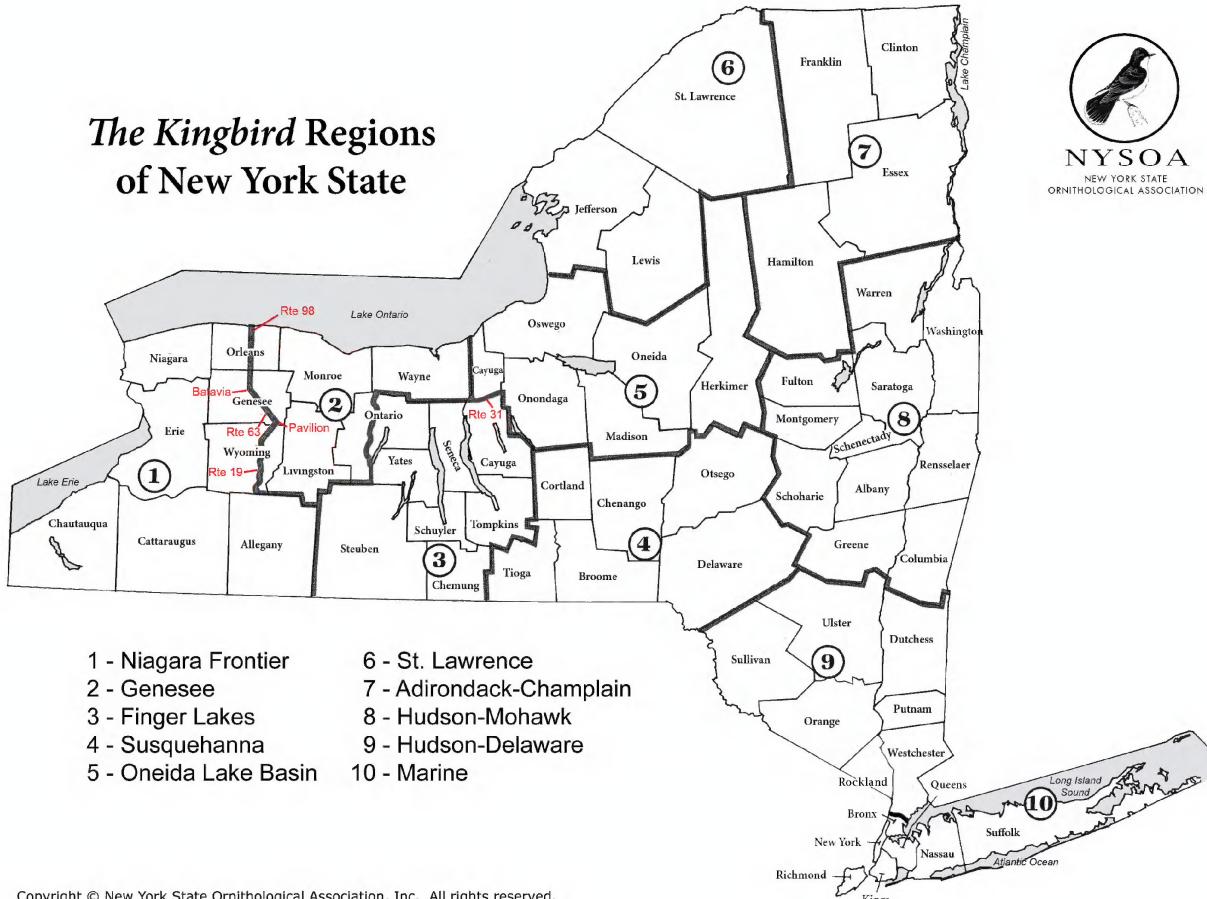
Region 2-Region 3 in Ontario County:

the boundary is Mud Creek to NY Route 64, NY Route 64 from Bristol Center to S. Bristol Springs, and Route 21 from S. Bristol Springs to the Yates County line.

Region 3-Region 5 in Cayuga County:

the boundary is NY Route 31.

## The Kingbird Regions of New York State



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